石踏一榮
ICHIEI ISHIBUMI

ハイスクールD×D
スーパーヒーロートライアル
DX.5

ファンタジア文庫

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That day, the department store—turned into a pandemonium.

Life.1 Resurrected? The Immortal Bird

This happened while we were fighting against the Qlippoth led by Rizevim.

It happened rather suddenly.

That man came to Hyoudou mansion.

"As expected, the air of the Human world is not to my liking".

The one who said these conceited words while seated on the sofa of the VIP room was——Riser Phoenix.

It was the ex-fiancé of Rias, Riser, who came to visit.

"Jeez, onii-sama. Why don't you stop being a snob and quickly tell us what your business is coming here?"

Riser's little sister, Ravel, urged him while sighing at his attitude.

Because Riser's visit was unexpected, the ones who were at the house and were receiving him were only me, Rias and Ravel.

It was a situation in which only 3 people gathered to receive him. If it was the former Riser,

"Even though I came to visit, why isn't Rias' peerage gathered here to greet me!?"

He may have pouted like that, but he seems to have calmed down in this area. Because he doesn't seem to particularly care about this.

Riser cleaned his throat with a "Khom" and said.

"To tell you the truth, I was thinking that it is about time for me to decide my new 『Peerage』 member. So, I want your cooperation".

While saying this, Riser took a『Bishop』piece from his breast pocket. It was an unused piece.

That's right, Riser traded his『Bishop』piece who was Ravel, with his own mother.

Because of that, Ravel is currently her mother's『Bishop』and Riser has an unoccupied『Bishop』piece.

That meant that in the current situation, Riser doesn't have his full peerage.

I heard that he is genuinely thinking about returning to the Rating Games.

I guess he's seriously starting it.

I think that one of the biggest requirements is to increase his peerage members.

Even if it were to increase with only one person, it's like a different world in the question of game strategies.

In fact, if his comrades were to increase even by one, his fighting-style will change as well.

.....Even if it's me, who is the symbol of power from the Gremory peerage, saying that.

Rias nodded while saying "Uh-huh".

"So you decided about your new peerage member. I'm alright with cooperating, but..... how should I say this? It's not like you to make this kind of suggestion".

Rias was a little puzzled.

Probably, Rias found it hard to understand Riser, who was asking for the cooperation of his former fiancée to find a new female member.

Because it was as if he's saying something like this——

『I'm going to find a new harem member, as my former fiancée, I want your cooperation.』

As Rias' boyfriend, this was something that I couldn't let go, so I asked in an inoffensive tone.

"Although she's your former fiancée, what are you thinking when you ask her to help you find a new woman?"

When I said this, Riser replied with something completely unexpected.

"Hmm, well. It's natural that the new peerage member will be a woman, but..... I was thinking that even if it was a man, it would be alright".

.....

.....

.....As it was a really unexpected reply, for an instant, my mind became blank.

Rias who was on my side too stood as if she were frozen.

When she heard Riser's reply, it was like time stopped for her as she hardened.

After a little pause, Rias and I screamed together.

"[[Eeeeeeeeeeeehhhhhh!?]]"

It's obvious!

That Riser! He's the third son of the Phoenix household who is memorable for being a lustful person!

The man who realised a harem with his peerage which only has women..... is now saying that it's alright if there's a guy in his peerage!?

I can't believe it, I can't believe it, I can't believe it, I can't believe it, I can't believe it!

As I became confused, inside my mind [I can't believe it] was being repeated! That's just to show how shocking this is!

Suddenly, I turned my gaze to Ravel and——she was so surprised that it was as if her eyes flew out of their sockets and her mouth was gaping wide. Seems like she became surprised by the words of her elder brother from the bottom of her heart too.

"O, o, o, o, o, ooooooooooooooooonii-sama! Do you have some kind of illness!? This is weird, this is really weird!"

Because even his little sister showed a shocked expression, Riser replied while looking a little ill-humored.

"......It's weird for me to have something like a guy as a peerage member?"

"[[[Un-un.]]]"

The three of us nodded at the same time at Riser’s question.

Seeing us like this, Riser was crestfallen.

Riser shook his head and thrust his finger at my direction and shouted.

"Anyway! Sekiryuutei, Hyoudou Issei! I was finally able to take a spot in your schedule, so this time, I'll have you cooperate with me as

much as possible! Come, come, we are going to teleport to the Phoenix territory in the Underworld immediately!"

In this way, we brought several members of the Occult Research Club who were free and jumped to the Underworld.

――Then, we, who teleported (myself, Rias, Ravel, the Church Trio who came running, Koneko-chan and Gasper) arrived at the castle of the Phoenix territory through the magic circle!

I've come here before. I helped cure Riser when he became a Hikikomori.

"Hime-sama! Welcome home!”

"Ah! Ravel-sama! I was worried about you!"

At Ravel’s surroundings, the servants of the Phoenix household were gathering successively.

Ravel is idolised as a princess by the people who work at the castle.

About the other person in the Phoenix household.....

"Riser-sama, if you would please quickly give your signature to the documents that I lent you the other day".

"Young master! What were you thinking that you didn't go to the official business a few days ago without permission!?"

"We-well, wait, you guys! Rather than me, we have guests, so deal with them!"

To the point of even being contrastive, there was the appearance of Riser who was being severely pressed by the servants.

How should I say this? This is really like Riser.

Rias too seemed to be grieving as she put her hand on her cheek.

Supposing that Rias became Riser's bride, she would probably meet this kind of situation every day.

.....No, no! Rias won't become Riser's bride, and I have the determination to make her my bride, but! .....that's something for later, for now we should deal with the reason as for why we were brought here.

While we were being guided by Riser, he said as we progressed through a corridor.

"To tell you the truth, tomorrow, this castle will be the meeting place of a big trial that I'll hold to select a new peerage member. I want Hyoudou Issei to be present as one of the judges".

.....For real? This too, it's a really unexpected request.

Because he wanted cooperation to choose a new peerage member, I only thought that he wanted me to introduce him to someone outstanding or hear my opinion.

No way!

I didn't even think that he would do a big trial at this castle, or that he would want me to be a judge in it!

Riser said to Rias while looking sorry.

"Sorry, Rias. Other than Hyoudou Issei, I want the cooperation of those two『Bishop』as well. Because my recruitment will be only limited to『Bishop』this time, I think that it'll become a good reference, however――"

"It's better if I don't become a judge, right? .....I mean, it would probably become a scandal".

Rias continued Riser’s words like that.

Riser too, only replied with one word, [Sorry].

The two of them are former fiancé's, but when the engagement was broken It became a big scandal in the Underworld.....

We-well, about this incident, I'm extremely involved in it.

I mean, I'm the person responsible for invading the place and stealing Rias.

In the end, I was informed that the news about me and Rias became something like this after that, [Love between different social stats].

As it had those circumstances too, it would be quite the prey for the media if they were to know about it, that these two who had these complications in the past, we're getting along well with each other with this [Judge of Raiser Phoenix peerage] thing. It's certain to cause an uproar.

Nevertheless, to make a peerage member of his former fiancée a judge, it's something that could raise needless rumours, but..... that's barely OK, probably?

Taking that and everything into account, Xenovia asked Riser.

"However, isn't it complicated for you, who is the former fiancé-dono of Rias-buchou, to make Ise a judge in the selection of your peerage?"

Xenovia asked a reasonable question.

I thought the same. I could be called Riser's rival in love.

Lately, we often talk through the communication magic circle, but...

"Was it alright for me to be placed in the position of a judge for this important trial?"

I asked myself this while being grateful at the same time.

Riser replied while turning his face away.

"Kuu! I-I merely thought of using the popularity of the Sekiryuutei!"

Ah– he probably thought of using my name as [Oppai Dragon] to spread the news of this selection as far as possible. If it's like that, it's easy to understand.

However, Ravel laughed amusingly.

She said this while showing a mischievous smile.

"Jeez, Onii-sama. Even though it's alright for you to be honest——You want Ise-sama's opinion as a reference so that you can judge it together with him, right? Because you don't have another male acquaintance that you're familiar with, right?"

Riser raised an angry voice at those words of Ravel, [S-shut up!], but his face was bright red.

.....A familiar acquaintance? Should I feel honoured or have complicated feelings about it? I was troubled at how to deal with this.

On that day, due to the trial which would be opened tomorrow, we held a preparatory meeting until late at night.

The next day——

The first morning that I greeted in the Phoenix territory.

.....Last night, Ravel's mother appeared as well and she gave us quite the hospitable treatment.

For some reason, Riser was in good spirits as he was singing and drinking.

The current family head of the Phoenix household and his two older sons were out of the castle for work, but..... as I was paying more attention than when I overstayed at Gremory's castle, I was nervous.

I finished dressing and left the room that was provided to me.

Suddenly, I looked outside through the window of the castle——and there was a long line of people that continued until the gates!

They weren't only from the Phoenix territory, they were participants of the whole Underworld who sent their documents for examination, and they were already gathered this early in the morning.

Because men and women could be recruited without distinction, there was the appearance of many male Devils.

Even their species, just from rapidly looking from the window, there was: Devils with humanoid appearances, big framed beastmen; on top of that, it had even monsters and giant Dragons!

.....U-Uhm, the limit was only one, but the situation became like this.

Although it had the examination of the documents, the number of people lined up easily surpassed a thousand.

From now on, we are going to sift out the participants through many tests.

Many may be selected, but that doesn't mean that the vacant seat will be filled.

If Riser, who is the master were to say no to all of those participants, that would be the end of it as it would be postponed until the next opportunity.

It's obvious. The current High-class Devils can only recruit a maximum of 15 people into their peerage. They don't have the leeway to give their pieces to anyone.

Moreover, if only a single piece were to remain, one would probably hold a strong obsession over it.

Even me, if the future comes when I have only one piece remaining in my hand, I would very carefully think about who I would choose as my last peerage member.

However, in the current world of Devils, which still has a big gap between the High-class and Low-class, to a Low-class Devil, becoming a member of a High-class Devil's peerage is a big step towards a successful life.

Looking from the perspective of those who have ambition, the 『Evil Pieces』 is something that they would want desperately, but are unable to get their hands on it.

"Yes, this is bread. This bread is the symbol of Heaven".

.....From the window, I saw an Angel-san who I'm familiar with.

Irina was distributing bread to those who were waiting inline.

.....Did she open the [Irina's Bakery] in this place!?

Hmm, Angels really open their home bakery anywhere.....

.....Anyway, this trial is a good opportunity for me too. Since I have the ambition of making a peerage for myself when I become a High-class Devil, I think that being a judge in this kind of trial is an important experience. And it's wonderful that Riser has the same thought pattern as me——he's also a harem-loving guy like me!

I'll enjoy today without any restraint!

"This too is to become a Harem King! I'll go all out as a judge!"

——Then, I filled myself with motivation and started walking towards the meeting place, the conference room.

In the conference room, we confirmed the details of the test and what we would be doing for the last time.

The main test will be managed by the Phoenix household, that'll be basically led by Riser. What is essential for us is that I'll be a judge.

Asia and Gya-suke will be judges too, because the hosting side wants them as the『Bishop』reference. The two are『Bishop's』of the Rias Gremory peerage, which has a promising future and is called the number one young Devil team, so Riser has nothing to criticize about them.

On the other hand, my participation is an absolute prerequisite. I mean, one of the factors of this recruitment test is this: [The Sekiryuutei, Hyoudou Issei will participate as a judge too!].

At this late hour, the Phoenix household can't retreat anymore.

"Ise-sama, did you see that queue? To tell the truth, there are people who heard that you would come and decided to participate too, you know?"

Ravel said something like this.

.....I heard that for those Devils starving for this kind of test. My existence as the Sekiryuutei, is even bigger than what I’m aware of. Seems like there's already a big crowd of people, independent of being men or women aiming for my vacant Evil Pieces.

For them, my promotion to a High-class Devil is only a matter of time, so for them to show me their faces in this kind of trial has this much of a meaning.

In other words, they are probably thinking that this is a good opportunity for them to become part of the Phoenix peerage, and even if that wasn’t possible, if I were to set my eyes on one of them, it's already more than enough as a future prospect.

.....Uwaa, the act of gathering one peerage has a bigger whirl of desire than I thought. Even though I don't even know if I'll become a High-class Devil, the contest for my peerage seats has already started!

.....Today their gazes seem somewhat scary!

".....Please, be careful, Ise-senpai. I think that there are female Devils there who are thinking of using the strategy of seduction to attract you. I heard that it happens quite often, that some of them establish the fact beforehand and later press the person into entering their peerage".

Koneko-chan warned me.

.....I see I see. Because they know that I'm weak against women, they will use a strategy of seduction!

Their true intentions are to use their bodies to tempt me as an investment for their future!

Th-that makes me somewhat interested!

"If it's a good woman I won't let you have her! I'll take her!"

Riser got the better of it! Damn it! I want my pieces fast! Seeing someone make their harem from the side gives me an unbearable agony!

Rias said while looking down on the summary of the documents.

"However, I was surprised that you would accept even men in your peerage".

Hmm, it's as Rias said. It's hard to think that the man who made his harem would be fine with a man as his last member.

Even his own little sister, Ravel, had the same opinion as Rias saying, [It's really surprising].

Riser raised his hair with his hand and showed a bitter smile.

".....Well, I guess you are right. This is not like me. How should I say this, I had something like a change of heart.....Seeing the young Devils: Rias and Sairaorg Bael, as senpai, I had some things to ponder about".

.....I see. Rias and Sairaorg-san are part of those called Rookies Four, for those Devils who have participated in the game since before, as they are rookies who are well-known inside and outside of the Underworld, and have big expectations placed upon them.

As a current player of the game, there's no way that Riser doesn’t care about it. Because, In the future, there's a high possibility that they will stand in his way as strong opponents. It would be weird if he wasn't aware of them.

Riser continued.

"'I'll consolidate a team made of women. If the『King』is a man, it'll probably be seen as a hobby, but if you were to complement their abilities with each other, it can work as a splendid team too. Even I only gathered my peerage as a hobby too, but..... that isn't something rare to a High-class Devil. To make a peerage as one imagined can be said to be one of the privileges of those born as High-class Devils.....This is the public stance talked about, but lately, I've come to think about this——those of the lower generation, are

making their peerage with something more than just the relationship of master and servant in mind".

Riser looked at Rias.

"Rias' would probably be..... affection. Your affectionate way towards your peerage is famous even in the Underworld. Sairaorg Bael's would be a huge ambition that he holds together with his peerage——a dream that they hold and move towards. This kind of thing..... how should I say this? This kind of approach, no, it would probably be more correct to call it the driving force of the team. I felt that I—— my team doesn't possess something like that".

Riser confessed this while scratching his cheeks.

.....Approach and dreams, hmm? Certainly, each of the young Devils: Rias, Sairaorg-san and Sona-Kaichou have dreams and objectives which they move towards. That became our guiding principle and it's an indispensable driving force for the team. Riser continued.

"In that meaning, I want someone who can bring a fresh atmosphere for the team. If I could wish, I would prefer a woman, but if it were to be a guy and he could bring innovation, I wouldn't disregard it".

.....This person really changed.

When we first met, I thought of him as an unpleasant and perverted noble, but as we met more and more his attitude was softening.

Finally, he became someone able to say something like this.

Ravel, who was on the side, was cleaning her eyes with a handkerchief.

".....Uuu, onii-sama. You really grew up. I'm so happy as your sister that even tears came out of my eyes. To think that, that onii-sama

who only thought about women, women, women, alcohol, money, and women to that extent would change this much.....!"

As expected, Riser was troubled by this confession of his little sister, so he shouted with a high-pitched voice.

"Do-don't misunderstand! I said that I would accept a man, but I won't accept a playboy! If I were to put a guy in the peerage he'll have to be a pure martial artist who is more interested in military exploits than women, or a harmless and inoffensive herbivore guy! I won't let him touch my women!"

He said something like this, but since his prideful attitude quieted down, I think that it proves that he really changed.

"And I want to add this in the end: [If possible, I want someone with a little sister attribute]. This was one of the important points written in the selection. As expected, I want to fill the hole opened when Ravel left, with someone with the same attribute".

Riser emphasised his obsession. Everyone was puzzled, but I understand it!

I know, as expected, someone with a little sister attribute is good! Today I want to judge that part.

審査

While this happened, we did the last confirmation and finally, the trial started.

"Those who want to enter my peerage advance until the finals! Let's leave our names on the history of the Rating Game!"

『OOoooooooooooooohhhh!!!』

After all the participants were gathered in the wide courtyard of the castle, Riser made an opening declaration. The angry roar-like shout of the participants echoed.

.....However, those participants, they even made my skin shudder with their roar!

The judges who were me, Asia and Gyasuke sat in the seats arranged in the courtyard and were watching over the situation from here. It's not our turn yet.

Firstly, the number of participants will be narrowed down in every trial.

When their number is decreased to approximately two digits, it'll become the last phase, then our opinion will have an influence too.

The trials carried out by the participants covered various topics starting with a physical strength test, demonic power aptitude and the aptitude with the Evil Pieces (the compatibility with every piece) and other tests.

The participants were rated by making a comparison with the average ability value of peerage Devils which was published by the government.

Obviously, having abilities higher than normal is a necessary component, but a protrusion to the extremes is being rated too.

Example, if one doesn't have stamina but has outstanding demonic powers or if one has a characteristic power——like a Sacred Gear, or even if one were to have a power inferior to it, it'll be highly recognised.

In other words, even if it's an irregular power it is necessary for a Devil’s peerage.

Well, since this time there are only Devils here, so there will be no Sacred Gear possessor.

Because the Rating Game is a team battle, one just needs to compensate for the strong and weak points of their team members.

That's why, if one were to have even one thing that they are outstanding in, that would become a weapon and an appealing point.

.....Even though the appraisal standard of the peerage Devils is the merit system, the lifestyle and interaction of the average Devil and High-class Devils are influenced by one’s social class and lineage.

Should I say that it has a complicated structure.....

That's why the game is receiving attention in various meanings in the Underworld. The fact that even a Devil of humble origins has one chance to dream of changing oneself.

——This has become the viewpoint of the average High-class Devil, who has their own peerage of Devils.

For the time being, the examiners, who are exclusive to the organisation which manages the Rating Game, are strictly checking every test.

Then, wouldn't it be better if these examiners were to watch over the test until the end?

I had such thoughts, but the one who should decide it is the King.

This time it became like this because it’s Riser wish for the judgment to be entrusted to us.

Seems like there are Devils who entrust everything to those examiners too.

In this way, the test started here and there in this courtyard. If there are shouts of joy, there are voices of dejection too.

No, however, these are only things that I can learn from. I see, I see..... I took out a memo book and wrote down the things I was concerned about.

So there are these kinds of tests too, there are many who choose by their feelings like Rias, so this part probably varies from person to person.

I wanted to perform this kind of test at least once. When it's a type of person that I'm really searching for, that information could come out in this kind of trial.

Then, while I was watching it with great interest——

"Eer, are you Sekiryuutei-sama?"

I heard a lazy voice of a woman.

Looking at the direction of the voice——it was a sensual onee-san dressed in clothes which were boldly opened at the part of the breast, with oppai shaking with [Boin boin], as she was looking at me with a sexy expression.

I swallowed the saliva in my mouth, I removed my gaze from her oppais and nodded.

"Ye-yes, I'm the Sekiryuutei, why.....?"

As I replied like this, the onee-san became overjoyed and reduced the distance between us!

She took my hand and placed it on her breasts!

"I'm a really big fan of the Sekiryuutei, you see? Since the first time I've seen you on the TV, how should I say this? My heartbeat was really fast, I was really excited, sometimes it even flutters with joy, you know?"

The onee-san said something like this with a sweet voice!

Th-there's no doubt that this is a honey trap! I mean, what I felt from the depths of this woman's eyes was the look that a female leopard would give to its prey!

Koneko-chan just warned me about this a little while ago! There are already Devils targeting me! Without a doubt this onee-san is aiming for one of my vacant peerage seats in the future!

That's right, I understand it in my head! I know that it's dangerous! Ho-however……!

Because this is the first time an onee-san approached me like this! It's the first time! Because I'm happy! Un-unintentionally!

"I-it's that so? Oh stop, you really got me there!"

Here, I'm lewdly smiling with a dere dere expression on my face! I know! I understand it in my head! However, it can't be helped! It's not often that I'm courted like this, you know!?

Those are my instincts! The nature of an inexperienced man, it's overwriting my reason!

The onee-san pushed my hand.

"Eerr-eerr, can the two of us…… have a talk alone over there……?"

She pointed to a place hidden from view, and as if it weren't enough, she really emphasised and shook her breasts and said this with a sweet voice!

——To establish the fact!

This kind of phrase rushed through my mind!

What is she going to do when it's just the two of us!?

To establish the fact what kind of thing we need to do!?

My head started boiling and I started wanting to know the true form of this to establish the fact!

"Ise-san it's no good! When we go back home, there are plenty of oppai that Ise-san really loves there!"

The same judge as me, Asia pushed my other hand as if trying to sober me up.

Yes, while I was confused about what was happening, someone separated my hand from the woman's hand.

——It was Ravel.

My manager suddenly came between us and stood before the woman.

"This time Hyoudou Issei-sama is here as a judge. Please, stop with unnecessary contact——otherwise you are going to be disqualified for cheating, you know?"

As expected, the woman could only ask for pardon at Ravel's firm attitude and retreat.

As expected of my capable manager! She was desperately defending me!

Ravel turned towards here and pointed her finger towards me.

"Jeez, Ise-sama! Didn’t Koneko-san just tell you to be careful!? You are the Sekiryuutei, so please get a grip of yourself! We are really lucky that Rias-sama or Xenovia-san aren’t here, otherwise, it would really become troublesome".

Ravel warned me like this. I could only feel ashamed. I showed her my pathetic side.

Ho-however, it's really true that I’m really weak to women’s seduction. I-I have to be careful about this…… !

For me who is really weak against women, they are more troublesome than Vali or some Evil Dragon!

By the way, Rias is not here to evade a scandal, so she opened a tea party with Ravel’s mother.

Xenovia was curious about the contents of every trial, so she is watching over the trials from a different place.

Ravel sighed and regained control of herself and said.

"Please wait just a little more and you’ll start judging, Ok?".

Ravel made tea for us judges and continued talking while serving us.

"Some of those girls from onii-sama’s peerage, were able to enter through this kind of examination too, you know?"

"Heh, then, Riser does perform quite a number of tests like this?"

"It probably varies. There are some girls who he had met on his business trips, who he made part of his peerage too. My brother has that kind of a personality, but he won't forcibly reincarnate someone, you know? It's unexpected, but they did it with mutual consent".

Yes, I somehow knew that. Riser has that temperament of a snobby young master, but he's not the type to use the so-called diabolic way, to make someone part of his peerage. That's something that one can understand by seeing his peerage. I mean, even now——

"What kind of person will Riser-sama choose?"

"A woman once again? Someone with the little sister attribute like Ravel-chan?"

"Is it serious, serious that a boy is going to enter?"

"Serious, serious?"

The women from the phoenix peerage were gathered around Riser, who was watching over the trial.

"You girls, could you look a little serious over this trial? There could be someone there who'll be a new team member".

Riser warned them with an attitude as if he was used to this.

A peaceful mode was flowing while we looked at Riser and his peerage.

Suddenly, the sound of something breaking could be heard from a place in the courtyard!

A cloud of dust was raised and the vibrations were transmitted through air until here!

Moreover, it didn't happen at only one place, it happened at several places at the same time!

At this sudden incident, I unconsciously stood from my chair! Hereupon, Rias appeared at my back while not standing out!

"Fu, fu, fu, looks like they are playing an active role".

She said these deeply meaningful words. Seems like she knows what’s happening..

"What do you mean?"

Rias replied to my question.

"To tell the truth, as a requirement of lending my peerage this time, I made a suggestion which was accepted".

Suggestion? While I was puzzled thinking about it, a voice that I'm familiar with reached my ears.

"——Fu, fu, fu, there's no one who can win against my full power sprint!"

While saying something like this, there was a person or was it a bird? A strange creature was moving around the courtyard at crazy speed!

——No, wait. That guy, although he was born in Kobe he's a Birdman who is like a Nagoya Cochin Chicken, he's called Takahashi Sky!

That's right, he's the Birdman servant of the Kaichou of the Club of Tennis, the monster tamer from Kuoh Academy, Abe Kiyome-senpai!

Wh-why,is that bird head bastard, who forgets everything after three steps here.....?

However, this wasn't the only shocking thing!

At a different trial, a headless armoured knight raised a big rock that was used in the test! I'm familiar with this headless armoured knight too!

"That guy is the Dullahan, Headless Honda! It's my bosom friend, Honda!"

He is a demonic beast related to Abe Kiyome-senpai!

——This time, a sudden chill. The courtyard was enveloped by the cold air!

"UUooooooooooOOOooooooo!"

Together with the roar of a beast, drumming sounds——there was a white gorilla releasing a frost breath!

No, a Yuki Onna——a Gorilla!

——Chr, Christ, no, it was Christie!

It wasn't only one white shadow!

"Roar of laughUohohohooo".

There was another gorilla who was releasing a roar of laughter too!

That's probably..... Christie’s older sister, Stephanie!

Why are those Gorilla sisters at this place!?

"Gorilla, Gorilla, Bird, Armour!"

I pointed my finger at them and shouted like this!

Rias said.

"Yes, Abe-san said something like this".

『Hey, Rias-san. I wonder if my monsters have enough power to join a peerage. If there was an opportunity, I would like to test it.』

While the graduation was approaching, it was the request of a classmate. Rias reluctantly agreed, replying with: [If there's an opportunity].....

Just then, this peerage selection of Riser occurred, so she arranged for them to come out!

"Well, even if they didn't register with the official papers to be judged, they will probably end up failing anyway, so I called them to be some kind of celebration".

Rias said something like this!

"You are slow, slow! My speed.....? Well, I wonder why I'm in this place. No, maybe I'm here in the search for myself.....fu, fu, fu".

While running around in high-speed, the Birdman was forgetting what he was doing and started a search for himself.

"....."

The headless armoured knight started playing a bean bag juggling game with the big rock.

"Uohohoho!"

"sweatUhoho".

The Gorilla sisters were having a lighthearted talk while releasing a chilling air.

It makes one think that they cleared the test with ease!

"Hehe, the air of the Underworld is not that bad".

Moreover, a Kappa appeared while saying something like this and materialised a giant pillar of water!

Ah– I'm familiar with that Kappa too!

"That guy is Salamander Tomita-san! No way! Even that Kappa came!?"

He's the Kappa rapper that Koneko-chan admires! Koneko-chan who appeared near me before I noticed said.

".....He's my favourite rapper".

Koneko-chan said this proudly with a thumbs up, but..... Her favourite rapper, hmm it makes me want to shout for him to go make his proud sushi rice with cucumber.....!

"Baaaa! Ppleeeee!!"

The one who sent dozens of opponents flying while raising a manly war cry was——a person wearing a mask of a deformed apple character! Or rather, isn't that mascot character the one from Bael territory, [Bapple-kun]!?

Seeing that, Rias smiled.

"Seems like Sairaorg——no, Bapple-kun came too. For the time being, he wanted to come here as a mascot character. Because it seems like he's interested in this kind of test too".

——Seriously!? Even Sairaorg-san came!?

Leaving me behind, who could only become surprised at these successive events, the trials continued.

Finally, we entered the last phase of the trial.

"....."

Riser who was seated together with the judges, had a sullen expression on his face. His discomfort was transmitted even to me who was seated on his side.

Those who surpassed every trial and remained until the last phase, stood on a stage which was previously prepared.

Starting from the left: Takahashi Sky, Headless Honda, the sisters, Christie & Stephanie, Salamander Tomita, and Bapple-kun. This was

like a lineup from a different dimension. If I were the one hosting this, I would probably escape without hesitation.

However, Riser is a prideful guy, so he didn't blame us for calling them, he just endured it with a face filled with agony.

Rias too, seeming that everyone who she called passed the test, looked a little confused. Was it unexpected for her? Rias is a mischievous-san.

With this kind of lineup, of course they would pass. I mean, they are the abnormal beings among the abnormal beings.....

The host who was chosen in a hurry for the last trial was standing on the stage, it was our Angel——Irina-chan!

『Eh– everyone! How are you doing amen!? In this way, the last judgment of the trials concerning who'll be the [Bishop] of Riser Phoenix arrived! It's a contest of appeal before the judges!』

Leaving me and Riser whose tensions were really low behind, Irina had a lively expression.

"......Hey, Hyoudou Issei.....there's not even one woman there....."

"Ah, errr..... Are you seeing that Gorilla, right? That is a woman".

".....I don't understand the words of the Human world. Say with words that I can understand too".

"No, I mean, you are a Devil! You obviously understand what I'm saying! What I mean is, that white Gorilla, that is a woman".

Riser covered his face with his hands in silence. He leaked a [.....ugh] with a muffled voice. Looks like he received quite the mental damage.

"......By the way, which one of them is a female? I can't make the judgment".

"The two of them are females. Those girls are sisters".

".....I'll cry a little".

Riser covered his face with his hand. A shining thing ran through his cheeks. But, heartlessly, time continued to move.

『Then, each of you, it's time to appeal! Don't forget to appeal using your little sister attribute too!』

Irina encouraged them like this, then the curtains of this hellish appeal contest opened.

The one to start it was——the Birdman, Takahashi Sky.

"Hello. Errr, was this the test of the Pythagoras household? Or was it the test of Galapagos Islands household? My clan arrived in this lineage by going to the Eastern Islands——No, maybe it was the Toaster Islands. Or rather, why was I born in this world.....? However, if I'm asked; isn't a little sister something like that? That's right..... that is a hard question, but if I had to purposely say it, it would probably fall in the genre of a little sister. These days, the genre little sister really became something wide——little sister [妹], which is written using the words for woman [女] and wife [夫]. it has quite the deep meaning, right?"

Far from forgetting his objective, this bird head already forgot even his reason for existence.

After that, a few minutes after the test started, he ran to somewhere and never came back again.

"Little sister [妹], which is written using the words for woman [女] and wife [夫]..... As expected, I can't just remain being called a little sister character by people.....!"

For some reason, Asia was acting as if she received a deep impression from the talk of that bird, so she gave him a high evaluation.

The second one——was Headless Honda.

"....."

Because he's unable to talk, he took out a sketchbook and started writing.

For some reason, Gasper and Xenovia were hooked on in from beginning to end, so they laughed through the whole thing. The rest of us only gave bitter smiles.

For my friend Honda, I gave an unreserved high evaluation. This test doesn't possess standards anymore!

The third one——was the Kappa, Salamander Tomita-san.

Koneko-chan who secured the place nearest from the stage, showed the passion of a fan. Her eyes were shining, it was as if she was seeing her admired celebrity. I wonder what in that Kappa strongly held the heart of that cat-eared girl.....

The Kappa said while reverse holding the microphone stand.

『If I must say, I'm that, a gust of wind. A Wind Fairy——Sylph..... I'm not a little sister. By no means, I'm no substitute for cuteness. A Sylph, like the wind, is transient and disappears.....something like that is OK too, right? A little sister.....! Isn’t someone who'll always stay by her older brother's side. A little sister is like a ——Sylph.』

This punk from a family of farmers of cucumber said this with a snobby voice.

No, you prefixed your name with Salamander, the Spirit of Fire!

『Please, hear it. My new single—— [Even a Kappa works in a sushi shop which doesn't spin]. 』

".....I was waiting for it!"

Suddenly it became a live show and the excited Koneko-chan shed tears of excitement. It already became a recital only for Koneko-chan. It was rare for me, but I nearly didn't recognise Koneko-chan.....

The fourth one was——Bapple-kun.

Sairaorg-sa——Bapple-kun who was standing on the stage, took out an apple which is the local speciality of the Bael territory and easily crushed it with his hands making juice.

Bapple-kun handed the juice he squeezed out to Riser.

"Elder brother-dono, if you are alright with me, I can make juice of squeezed apples for you every day".

At these words, the cited Riser was like this,

".....No way, I'm being courted..... And I thought it wasn't that bad....."

Because too many things happened, it was as if Riser’s sensitivity was broken. I mean, he was in a situation where his heart throbbed at the words of an apple character costume!

Come back, Riser! That person is not a little sister! He's the man among men! His muscles are bulging too much!

However, I gave a high evaluation to Sairaorg-san too.....

Starting with Rias, I'm utterly weak against those related with the Gremory household.....

At last, finally. Our dearest——female Gorillas!

The last remaining hope of this last trial..... no, it's despair!

There were many women participating; however, looking at the results, look at how it ended in this disastrous scene..... The last women to remain, were these two Snow Gorillas! The reality is cruel.

Riser frowned his face and continued to face downwards

"Uhoo".

"Uhohoo (Nuclear Bomb)".

Suddenly, those Snow Gorillas who were on the stage——started eating frozen bananas!

There's nothing that they can say anymore if they were to be called Gorillas!

I intentionally said this to Riser.

".....However, Riser-san. For the time being, that one..... which one was it? Only by looking at their faces, I can't make the distinction between them in the slightest, but one of them is able to fill the requirement of being a little sister, you know?"

Quietly, the veins of the temple in Riser’s head started to appear.

".....That's not the problem..... It's a Gorilla, a Gorilla! What are you thinking when you are trying to make my last peerage member be a Gorilla!? To put a Gorilla in a peerage with women with every

attribute!? When the masses see it, what are they going to think!? What are they going to feel!?"

".....They will say that it's a Gorilla".

"That's right, a Gorilla, yes a Gorilla! They will say something like this: *A white Gorilla entered Riser Phoenix's peerage*, you know!? When you become a High-class Devil and you have only an empty space left, if a Gorilla were to come what are you going to do!?"

"It's obvious that I'm going to refuse it! I mean, It's a Gorilla who breathes cold, you know!? It's not normal!"

"See, see! You became angry too! To have a Gorilla join you, it's normal to feel something like that!"

"However, it cannot be helped, that thing is a Yuki Onna! Other than that, another Yuki Onna doesn't exist in this world! But, I think that a team technique named: Gorilla & Phoenix, sounds powerful! It's the fusion of cold and Hellfire, you know!?"

"Don't joke with meeeeee!!"

Riser and I started grappling! Those in the surroundings gave us a look of amazement. As if trying to stop us, there was someone who cheered the Gorillas on the stage.

"Onee-chans, do your best!"

It was a beautiful girl with blue hair, dressed in white clothing!

She looked at least one year younger than me.

She intimately cheered for the Gorillas on the stage and those Gorillas-dono too, waved their hands at her.

"[[Who is that beautiful girl!?]]"

I and Riser who were hitting each other stopped and simultaneously murmured like that. Because the disposition of both of us is of an incredible pervert, if a beautiful girl were to enter our field of vision, a fight isn't something worth worrying about.

The『Queen』of the Phoenix peerage, who until now always stood quietly watching it from the corner, Yubelluna-san walked towards her and said.

"Probably, that is a Yuki Onna in its larval stage. That one is quite rare. I mean, when one reaches until that age it starts being hairy and they change to that burly physique, but....."

"――!"

I received a shock! Seriously!? So, a Snow Gorilla has its larval stage!? Moreover, it's a beautiful girl like that!? From the looks of it, she's probably a little sister of Christie!

"Riser-san..... That's really surprising, right? Wait, he's not here!?"

Riser who was grappling with me until now, is not here anymore.

Looking at the surroundings, he already teleported to the side of that Yuki Onna in its larval stage!

"Hey, you. Are you interested in becoming my『Bishop』? If you become a devil, I'll stop your aging to the way you are now".

He said something like this as if wooing her and took out the『Bishop』piece from his breast pocket! You plan to make her part of your peerage!?

"Uhohohoho!"

"Uhoohoo (Anger)!"

However, the two Gorillas on the stage didn’t forgive this, they instantly threw a punch towards the grilled bird bastard who approached their little sister!

"Goofu!"

Riser was sent flying by those Gorillas!

They were probably trying to express something like this: 『We won't let you touch our cute little sister!』.

Riser, who was cleaning his mouth from having received that punch, exploded with rage.

"Bring it on! So the last decisive battle will be between Gorillas and a Phoenix!"

What started in the courtyard of the Phoenix castle was a battle between a man who is part of the clan of the bird who is said to be immortal and the Gorilla sisters who are the incarnation of ice.

.....We who remained there, looked at each other’s faces and started settling the affairs.....

Sairaorg-san helped too.

In the end, the selection trial to choose a『Bishop』for Riser Phoenix ended being abandoned.

However, days later, I heard that Riser was able to have contact with that Snow Gorilla in the larval stage, and was able to receive her in the Phoenix territory as a candidate to be his peerage member.

For her to become a true peerage member, it'll depend on the negotiations with the Yuki Onna clan from now on.....

If he doesn't hurry up she'll end up becoming a Gorilla, so I think that it's better if he ends it fast!

I returned to my house, and said.

"......I too want to invade a snowy mountain of those Snow Gorillas and capture a Snow Gorilla in its larval stage".

Koneko-chan who was seated on my knees replied.

"......Are you determined to fight against an army of Gorillas?"

"......That looks difficult".

For the meantime, I don't want to see a Snow Gorilla!

However, seeing this way of gathering a peerage was a really good experience!

Someday, I want to make a harem for myself with people from everywhere.

Unknown Dictator

This happened a little after the big event that every faction could participate started, the International Rating Game Tournament also known as『Azazel Cup』

A man —— a human man, went to promote himself by his own choice to the eldest son of the Phoenix household, who is also the next family head, Ruval Phoenix.

It was a Caucasian man with an extremely muscular physique. In the latter part of his twenties.

Taking the opportunity given by Ruval, the『King』of the『Phoenix』team in the international tournament, where excluding those of his peerage, he was recruiting those with their origins in『Immortality』,『Immortal Bird』and『Sacred Bird』from every faction too, but even if one doesn't have the above-mentioned abilities, if the person had an ability that he felt that was attractive, the previous conditions could be overlooked.

For the test of the Caucasian man, a member of Ruval's peerage had a match against him in the garden of the Phoenix household.

Ruval Phoenix is a skilled person who is a player of the Rating Game that was primarily performed in the Underworld. He was even in the Top 10 once.

His peerage members, too, possess abilities that already surpassed a certain standard.

——However, the power of the Caucasian man surpassed that, it was a power in a different quality. He manipulated the machines which were in the surroundings.

He pointed his hand towards a giant illumination machine which was placed in the garden that reacted, and its arm that was supporting the light started moving by itself bathing the peerage member of Ruval with a dazzling light.

Due to that, the peerage member lost his sight for a while.

The Caucasian man didn't stop there, he pulled a sports car possessed by the Phoenix household that was nearby towards himself and changed its form.

When he touched the car with his hand, it changed its form and took the form of several cannons.

From there a bombardment of aura was released and the peerage member of Ruval was shot down.

Next, the man clad the car which previously changed its form to a cannon on his body and once again changed its form. This time, he changed it to a giant pair of wings of iron.

Seeing the appearance of the man who was gliding on the sky while releasing aura from the turbines on his back, Ruval said——

"Wings of Iron.....".

And became joyful. After the trial ended, Ruval asked the man's name.

"I'm called Magnus Rose".

Ruval inquired straightforwardly.

"You..... who is backing you?"

Ruval felt by instinct that this man was an agent dispatched from somewhere. Because what dwelled in his eyes weren’t something

like positive or negative feelings, he had the eyes of someone entrusted with a mission.

At this question, the Caucasian man——Magnus Rose laughed.

"It's good that the discussions will be fast. As expected of the next family head-sama of the Phoenix household. The one who got on the top ranks of the Rating Game".

While showing something to prove who he was, the man said.

"I'm affiliated with the CIA. Inside it, there's something called Sacred Gear Agents, so I received orders from the higher-ups from there to come and *directly see* what's happening in the tournament. In this way, I came in contact with you".

The third son of the Phoenix household who was learning from the trial——Riser was looking at Magnus with a puzzled expression.

".....The CIA? America should have acknowledged more or less the peace and the cooperative relationship of the Three Great Powers, but to think that even so, they would come to the Phoenix household to negotiate".

Magnus shrugged his shoulders.

"There are many reasons. The illegal Phoenix Tears that the Son of Lucifer made became a problem in America too. It became especially troublesome when several illegal PhoenixTears started circulating in the hands of the Mafia. I was entrusted to investigate that too".

Ruval said.

"We understand that several illegal tears were circulating through the Human world and for that, I'm really sorry for our slow response. We caused needless problems in the Human world.....However, that's not everything, right?"

Magnus nodded at Ruval's question.

"The turmoil with Trihexa. Although it's settled, it was an incident that America couldn’t ignore. Because of that, many big shots of the Human world who learned of the existence of you guys, supernatural beings, became fearful. Because of that, they strengthened their research about supernatural powers. In this part, I want to thank you guys. Together with big expectations, my department earned big funds".

At Magnus’ words, Ruval asked.

"So it could be said that considering the events of the Evil Dragon War, America is joining the tournament to collect information so that they can find a way to defend themselves against supernatural powers..... and you are the person that they sent?"

Magnus nodded.

"Something like that——then, upon knowing this, in what way does the Phoenix see me? My Sacred Gear seems to be a new species, you know? It can manipulate machinery and electronic devices with some limitations".

Ruval said with a bright smile.

"A Sacred Gear which manipulates machines.....certainly, it's the first time I've seen it. Above all, your performance with the wings of iron was something good. Alright, first, we'll have you participate in one match and measure your abilities there. We'll remove you after that if it’s not good; what do you think of this?"

Magnus showed a composed smile.

"It's enough".

"And——"

While saying that, Ruval looked at the ruins of iron that was near him. That was what remained of the sports car after having its form completely changed many times. It didn't maintain its form, it just became a pile of scrap iron.

"Would it be better if I charged the CIA for that? Just in case, that was my car.....".

Magnus made an inexpressible expression.

".....Please, forgive me for that. My boss will become furious. Understood, you can use me as you like as payment for that".

Riser who was seeing this murmured: [.....What a strange guy].

In this way, the man who uses wings of iron——Magnus Rose was registered as a member of the team『Phoenix』 led by Ruval Phoenix.

He displayed the power of the new Sacred Gear species in the tournament.

Magnus Rose——he was the possessor of one of the newly recognized Longinus, the possessor of 『Unknown Dictator』.

Life.2 Maid of the House of Pendragon

Part 1

This is something that happened immediately after the beginning of the year——.

An extremely rare invitation came to me from a certain man.

It was scheduled for us to meet at the front of Kuoh Academy on my day off, the one who appeared there was——.

"Hello, Sekiryuutei. It looks like I made you wait".

It was a handsome young man with a gentlemanly conduct —— Arthur.

That's right, Arthur asked me to guide him through Kuoh Academy. I promised to take him through the school during a day off. Otherwise, if I were to guide him on a weekday, we would cause trouble for the other students and teachers, resulting in us coming here today.

As I already informed Rias and Azazel-sensei, we could tour inside the school.

"I see, so this is the Kuou Academy".

While entering, Arthur looked at the empty classroom with great interest as we walked through the corridors.

"You can enter if you want. I already got permission for it".

As I said so, Arthur replied: [Then I'll excuse myself] and entered the classroom.

I said to Arthur, who was looking around the interior of the room.

"However, to think that you would say that you wanted to visit here".

While approaching the window, Arthur replied.

"Yes, it is the school that my little sister may attend after all. As an older brother, I wanted to more or less check it".

Ah– I see. Hearing that, I understood.

To be honest, next year—— in April, there was talk that Le Fay may attend this academy.

I heard that Arthur was concerned about his little sister's education . Thinking that a girl of that age wasn't attending school and staying in the house of another person may be a bother——.

.....Even if Arthur had such thoughts, Le Fay is a magician and originally a member of the Vali team. She probably wouldn't be able to live her life like a normal person. However, in these current circumstances——, as a 『D×D』 member living in this town, the talk is different, right?—— The older Brother, Arthur, thought like that.

Probably seeing that we, the Gremory peerage and Sitri peerage, who even while being attacked by terrorists continue attending school, pushed Arthur to think about it too.

No, thinking about it, the fact that we could attend school even under those circumstances was an amazing situation..... However, if we forget our duties as students, surely, we'll be immersed in fights every day.

At least when nothing happens, we want to fully enjoy the ordinary life of a student.

What I mean is, Arthur is thinking about granting this to his little sister too.

The mentioned Le Fay had a good feeling when asked about attending it.

Furthermore, it looks like she wants to transfer here from zero, she said she will take the tests to be accepted in the school.

Looking over this, Arthur probably became interested in the school that his little sister may attend.

And about Arthur..... he was crawling his finger through the window frame and looked at the dust on it while raising his glasses.

"..... I see".

.....He's smiling, but.....he looked like he wanted to say something. No, forgive at least this little amount of dust in the window frame!

"T-this is a good school. We attend it together with the normal students and other people from the supernatural side hiding their circumstances. This school has a favourable reputation among them too..... at least I think so".

Unconsciously, I started talking formally. I don't use this way of talking when conversing with the other members of the Vali team, but I can't do anything as I'm alone with this person..... I mean, he's a gentleman and carries himself with dignity.

Unconsciously, I start wanting to talk politely.

――Then, while I was troubled as to how to deal with this, I received an email on my cell phone. It was from Rias.

『A visitor from the UK arrived. She came to help Le Fay.』

――!

I was surprised with mail from Rias. A visitant to Le Fay? That means..... for the time being, I looked at Arthur's direction and told him about this too.

We quickly ended the school tour and returned to Hyoudou mansion.

Looks like the visitor already arrived in the house. I could hear a voice from the living room and peeking with my face, I could see a young woman in maid clothes being hugged by Le Fay.

"Elaine! To think that you would come here!"

Le Fay, who usually had a calm atmosphere, was hugging the maid in high spirits.

A British woman with black hair, from just looking, it looked like she was in the early half of her twenties. Her black long hair was tied at the top of her head and her bearing was graceful, as she had the look of a lady.

The woman smiled while hugging Le Fay.

"Of course, Le Fay-sama. Leaving that aside, I'm really sorry for not coming to greet you until now..... It took time for the family head-sama to explain to me".

".....Is that so? From Otou-sama..."

The maid-san looked at our direction.

"I'm sorry, I was rude. It looks like my introduction was a little delayed..... I serve as a maid in the Pendragon household and I'm called Elaine Westcott. Mainly a servant of Le Fay-sama. Devils from Japan, I'm pleased to make your acquaintance".

The maid-san—— Elaine-san greeted us.

A maid from Pe-Pendragon household! Above all, she's a worker under Le Fay.

Elaine-san bowed to Rias.

"To think that I would be able to meet with the little sister of that Maou Lucifer..... I'm extremely delighted."

Rias smiled as well.

"Come now, that's an exaggeration. It is me who should be saying that since my peerage has been under Le Fay's care. On the contrary, I'm the one who should be saying thanks".

As Rias said, we really have been under Le Fay's care. especially me. I've really been under Le Fay's care. After this, I should thank Elaine-san too.

While I was deciding this inside my mind, Kuroka, who was at my side, seemed to have understood something.

"Ah– the one from rumours".

"Hm? Did you know her Kuroka?"

As I asked, Kuroka whispered in my ear.

(She's in charge of teaching Le Fay~nyan. I heard that she's a magician too. If I'm not mistaken, she is a descendent of one of the three people who founded the Magician Association, [Golden Dawn]. Westcott something)

——!

.....This is a really interesting talk. It's the Magician organization that Le Fay was a member of before leaving with Vali—— Golden Dawn.

It's a different organization from the one who Mephisto Pheles-san is the director, [Grauzauberer].

Above all, this Elaine-san is a descendent of one of the people who founded Golden Dawn.....

(So she has a blood relationship with an important person?)

I asked this with a small voice and Kuroka nodded.

(Well, it probably became Le Fay's inspiration to enter that organization.)

Because they have this kind of connection, we can make this kind of assumption. Actually, we don't know what kind of relationship this organization has with Le Fay's family.....

When I was having these thoughts, Elaine-san completely ignored me, and this time, ——stood before Arthur.

She said bowing.

"..... Arthur-sama too, I'm relieved that you don't seem to have changed".

Arthur didn't wipe out his smile, but he replied a beat slower.

"..... Yes, you as well".

After replying like this.

"....."

"....."

There was an indescribable mood between Arthur and Elaine-san.

.....? Uh–, hmm. Well, while Arthur is the oldest son of the Pendragon household and he has the circumstances of running

away with the treasured sword of his family; Collbrand while Elaine-san is a maid serving his family.

The two of them are probably acquaintances..... they probably have complicated feelings regarding each other.

However, the group of women who live here showed a different reaction to mine.

"Ara, ara".

"Yes, this is quite interesting".

"This..... could it be?"

"Well, it should be what you are thinking".

"......Oh, dear!"

Akeno-san, Rias, Irina, Rossweisse-san and Ravel sent gazes of curiosity while alternating between Arthur and Elaine-san's face.

As if to clear this atmosphere, Elaine-san cleared her throat and asked Le Fay.

"......Then, Le Fay-sama. Who's the Sekiryuutei-sama whom you signed a contract with.....?"

Elaine-san said while looking around us. Looks like she was told by the Pendragon household that Le Fay is connected with the Sekiryuutei through a magician contract.

Sekiryuutei—— it's about me, but it seems like she doesn't know my face so she's looking at me, Kiba and Gasper, the men that were present here.

She probably only knows that the current Sekiryuutei is a man.

Elaine-san shifted her sight from me and started focusing on Kiba and Gasper!?

Or rather, she completely disregarded me and stood upright before the two of them!

But Le Fay, who stood by my side, formally introduced me.

"Yes, this gentleman here is the current Sekiryuutei, Hyoudou Issei ".

"Yes, thank you. I'm the Sekiryuutei Hyoudou Issei".

I bowed at Elaine-san too.

It's about Elaine-san, but…

"....."

She looked at my face with wide shocked eyes and in amazement.

She once again looked at Kiba and Gasper's direction, but..... both of them showed a troubled smile and said: [I'm not the Sekiryuutei] and [The same here.....]. as they clearly denied it.

".....Uhh".

Elaine-san was troubled about what to say, but she finally understood and bowed her head and apologized.

"..... I was rude. Different from what I imagined, you look like quite the unique person, so I was troubled on how to react. I can feel Dragon aura coming from you, but, I mean, how should I say it.....? I'm really sorry!"

...I'm sorry for being the Sekiryuutei!

In any case, compared with Kiba, he is better looking than me and probably has a Sekiryuutei-looking atmosphere!

What Elaine-san wanted to say was that although she could feel Dragon aura coming from me, because she felt the power of several dragons coming from the Hyoudou residence, she thought I was just a—— normal dragon.

On the contrary, she thought that either Kiba who completely didn't let out Dragon aura, but was clad in a powerful, quiet atmosphere, or Gasper with his cute face, but with a bottomless aura floating around him, was the Sekiryuutei.

..... It's that so!? Somehow, adding to my appearance, my expression made her think that I'm not the Sekiryuutei!?

Anyway, I was born as an ordinary person without dignity who became the Sekiryuutei!

Did Rias guess what I was thinking? She embraced me and said.

"I understand, Ise. But, that's alright..... In around 10 years or so, if you let your beard grow, it may increase your authority as the Sekiryuutei".

Uu, a beard! It probably wouldn't be bad, I thought so.

.....Thinking about it, although she is suppressing her power in this house, the Dragon God called infinity, Ophis is here and Asia who made a contract with several Dragons is here too.

It wouldn't be an overestimation to say that this house is a Dragon’s den.

Although she is a master at magic, when searching for our presences, on the contrary, It wouldn't be weird if her senses were to become sluggish.....?

Elaine-san cleared her throat and said why she came to visit this time.

"The reason why I came to visit Japan was because of the family head-sama of the Pendragon household—— that means Arthur-sama and Le Fay-sama's father. He wanted to know how the two of you are doing, so he bestowed the order for me to come".

Rias asked while putting her hand on her chin.

"That is, he wanted you to see how Arthur and Le Fay's life here was ?"

Elaine-san nodded at Rias question.

"Yes. As I'll be bothering you for a few days. Meanwhile, I was thinking if you may let me watch Arthur-sama and Le Fay-sama up close. I'm sorry, this too is the consensus of the Pendragon household".

Hearing this, Rias nodded.

".....Since the son and daughter of the noble family from the UK's Pendragon household were left in this land, I can't just deny it. Especially Le Fay, who's staying in this side's house".

Hearing this, not only Elaine-san, but Le Fay bowed her head as well.

"Thank you very much, Rias-sama!"

"I'm truly thankful for your magnanimous consideration. I'm deeply grateful to you, Maou's younger sister and everyone from the peerage too".

Raising her head, Elaine-san said.

"Then, firstly, I want to introduce myself to the Vali team, who Arthur-sama and Le Fay-sama bothered the most——"

Elaine-san said so, but I perceived that at one point, Arthur disappeared——.

Part 2

"First we need to clean this! I won't accept this kind of room!"

In a room in the underground, Elaine-san’s angry voice could be heard.

Elaine-san wanted to introduce herself to the members of the Vali team, the first to be chosen was Kuroka, who is always together with Le Fay.

She invited Elaine-san to her room in the underground of Hyoudou residence, but..... what we saw there was the interior of the room in complete disarray.

Le Fay and Kuroka were sharing a large room, but before we noticed, Kuroka made more than half of the room hers.

Her private possessions were abandoned in a small space of the room. On the other side, a place was sticking out like a sore thumb, it was completely clean and orderly, probably it was Le Fay living space.

Of course, seeing this is easy to imagine why Elaine-san instantly became enraged.

Kuroka—— and I too started cleaning the room.

A kotatsu was abandoned in the middle of the room and with it as the center, things were scattered. Probably, because it's Kuroka we are talking about, she basically lives inside the kotatsu, so she put those things where her hands could reach them.

If you ask the person in question, I think that she'll say that these things are in the best position for her to live in the kotatsu.

"Ah! It was alright to leave the pillow there! Ah! Wait! My coat is there because my hands can reach it nyan! If you take it from there, it'll be a bother to fetch it!"

Currently, Kuroka was raising a voice of protest against Elaine-san, who was quickly organizing her things.

Even if it's the best arrangement for the person in question, to others it only looks like a dirty room. As one would expect, Even I don't know what to think about a room disordered to this extent.

.....While thinking this and that, I found a see-through panties below a magazine!

Th-this is, in all probability, no!

This is absolutely Kuroka's..... this kind of lewd panties were appearing one after one from below the scattered things!

Probably, it isn't something that she dressed and threw off. She left it the way she bought it? or, she discarded it after washing and drying it, I think it is one of these two options..... even if I were to take one, she wouldn't find out about it.

I was tormented by this kind of worldly desire, but..... I decided that it was sufficient to just see Le Fay and Elaine-san who were nearby, look and touch it.

But, there are only panties and not even a bra..... she is organizing only her bras tidily? No, there's no way Kuroka would do this kind of thing.....

Thereupon, while showing a satisfied, lewd smile, Kuroka whispered in my ear.

(I think that it's troublesome, that's why I basically don't have a bra. I'm always without it, you know? By applying Senjutsu and Youjutsu I

can maintain *it* beautifully even without wearing one. That's why; I'm without a bra even now).

She said this while looking at me with moist, erotic eyes. and as if it weren't already enough, she emphasised her breasts!

N-no-bra! What wonderful words! Or rather, because these girls living in my house spent a long time without a bra, when looking at it, there're only breasts shaking! Thank you very much! Thank you very much! Senjutsu and Youjutsu, hurrah!

Elaine-san called Kuroka.

"Kuroka-sama! It's cleaning time! It's hard to forgive that Le Fay-sama's friend is living this kind of messy lifestyle! If Le Fay-sama were to copy you, I can only become concerned about the future prospects of Pendragon household!"

"..... Yes, yes".

Kuroka took the broom reluctantly and started cleaning the room once again. After a short while, was she concerned about us? Koneko-chan appeared.

"..... I'll help too".

Koneko-chan deeply bowed her head towards Elaine-san saying [My Onee-san caused you trouble] and apologized!

Uuu! I nearly cried at Koneko-chan's noble figure!

"Koneko-chan, I'm sorry for you having to help with cleaning".

"It's the opposite, Ise-senpai, I'm sorry for having you accompany me with this".

I had this kind of conversation with my kouhai.

Kuroka, it would be better if you learned from Koneko-chan!

After the cleaning ended to some extent, Elaine-san, finally, turned her fierce attack towards Fenrir, who happened to be present.

"This one is Fenrir-chan, a member of my team too".

Le Fay introduced the legendary magic beast—— Fenrir. He's a monster created by the Evil God from Norse side, Loki. He's a feared being by every faction as a Wolf who eats even Gods.

Vali controlled it and let it by his side. The reason was: that he thought it would be a good negotiation tool when he would fight with the Gods from every mythology system.

.....Originally it was like this, but now it became a legendary magic beast protecting Le Fay. He is normally monster-sized, but he reduced his size to something like a big dog. Well, even now the aura covering his body is something filled with intensity and his eyes are really sharp too.

He's an opponent that I don't want to fight against. After all, everyone had a hard fight against his unparalleled brutal claws and fangs.....

Standing before Fenrir, Elaine-san quietly stared at it and all of a sudden extended her hand towards him.

"Shake!"

.....This boldness before the legendary monster is amazing!

Even I can't do it. I mean, he'll definitely bite me.....! This guy is way more intelligent than the average human, you know!?

It's a behaviour that wouldn't be weird for him to attack you for hurting his pride! After all, he's a wolf.

If you were to treat him the same as a dog, then of course he would become angry!

Well, Fenrir..... didn't become angry, his expression didn't change too, but he sent a fleeting glance at Le Fay as if waiting for her reaction.

Probably, he's thinking something like: [What should I do in this situation?] and he wanted a helping hand from Le Fay with whom he's intimate with.

Le Fay could only bow her head to Fenrir.

Fenrir turned his face away and reluctantly obeyed, he gave his paw to Elaine-san!

Ah, that Fenrir who is like a mass of pride, gave his paw! He's giving his paw! It's probably because it's a request of Le Fay who he's intimate with!

Elaine-san, who received his paw, made a satisfied expression. and as if it weren't already enough, she petted Fenrir's head many times, as she looked like she's a woman who loves dogs.

"As expected of Le Fay-sama's doggie! He is completely educated! And this attitude like there's no opening, I can even feel relieved if he is to be a watchdog! However, the name Fenrir is a little exaggerated. .....something like John seems to suit him better....."

"Puh! Ah hahahahahahahaha! John! John is good nyan!"

Hearing Elaine-san's words, Kuroka started laughing hard while holding her belly. That Wolf Devourer of Gods..... became John.....

As expected he's pitiful for being called John..... W-well I was enduring my laugh too!

While laughing with teary eyes, Kuroka patted John's—— Fenrir's head.

"Well, it would probably be better for you to change your name to John".

While Kuroka was saying that, Fenrir bit her hand! As expected, he was offended by it.

"Kyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa! What are you doing, John?!"

"Gauuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuu!"

Kuroka, who became angry at being bitten and Fenrir, who raised an unusual roar of rage.

"?"

The origin of this incident, Elaine-san was only watching with a puzzled expression.

Ah, this person is overserious, but even I perceived that she's an extreme airhead-san.

Although, it cannot be helped that she made Kuroka and Fenrir fight like this.

"Oi, oi, hey! Kuroka and Fenrir, a guest came here so stay quiet. Or rather, this is my house! If you are going to be a freeloader here, at least act like one from time to time!"

The one who intervened in their fight was me. .....Well, there were scratches on my face made by Kuroka and bite scars on my hands made by Fenrir.

Part 3

Well, from the Vali team the only ones remaining to be introduced are Vali and Bikou, but.....

They are the most formidable enemies. I mean, because they always move together, we can't predict their moves and other than Arthur, we can't meet them. These two guys get along very well with each other.

Le Fay tried to open the exclusive communication magic line used by the Vali team, but even so, lately, it seems to be hard to connect it. Kuroka shook her hand, and said while sighing: [If we connect even 1 of 10 times, it's already good].

Just in case, Le Fay and Kuroka considered reaching that side with something like an answering machine that sends only the sound one-sidedly, but..... That guy Vali, only shows his face in the combination training when he can have his rare mock battle with the first generation, Son Goku-jiisan.

However, Bikou too..... if it turns out this way, the conditions will be harder too.

Because he doesn't know what to do when he meets the First generation jii-san, so he definitely won't show his face to train if he knows that the First generation jii-san is here.

From Azazel-sensei's talk, they seem to frequently go to Tokyo to eat ramen.

Those guys really love ramen, but even if I ask about this ramen shop which sells delicious ramen he won't easily reply, I mean, according to Vali——,

[The taste of someone to ramen is not something that can be understood, after all, it's not a food that can be simply suggested to someone, Hyoudou Issei. Even if we say that Soy ramen is the same, there's an infinite variety of it. If there are those who have sympathy towards the same seasoning since the old times, there are those who are only interested in Soy tonkatsu ramen with grand portions of fatty from a pork's back. Salt? That's the way of thinking of those second-rated, Hyoudou Issei. If you think that, by using salt, you are going to understand the nature of ramen, I have to tell you that this is a thinking pattern that is easily arrived by amateurs. When you perceive that you're wrong in thinking that: light seasoning = friendly relations, you'll know that you need to revise your homework about the ramen industry. In the first place, the current fashion――].

And something like this. I didn't even ask a deep question but seeing him talking like a broken radio, I became bewildered and later asked Azazel-sensei about it.

『Ise, don't talk to him about this kind of thing. In the end, he'll narrate the recipe for you.』

He said something like this! .....For me now, it is difficult to understand one of the interests and preferences of my rival.....

On my side, who was surrounded by those thoughts about Vali, Elaine-san for some reason took out a scale and started measuring Le Fay's body here and there.

"I see. Here and here and here too, you grew in those places, it's worth reporting to family head-sama and the madam".

From her three sizes to the thickness of her thighs, all kinds of places were measured.

"Wa-wait, Elaine! You don't need measure until there.....".

Receiving the handling of the maid scale, Le Fay became embarrassed? She was wiggling her body. Somehow, I could feel a little lewdness from it!

After all, it's about Le Fay who left her house because she was worried about her older brother Arthur. Surely, the people of her house are worried.

I caught sight of her contacting her family once through the magic circle of communication, but I don't think that she returned to her home country.

I am sure that wanting to report at least the numbers of her growth to her parents is the consideration of the maid—— Elaine-san. .....no, even if they were to hear of her three sizes, they would only be troubled.....

While I was having this kind of thought, that guy appeared here.

"Le Fay, so you're here".

The one who entered the room was Vali! This guy entered my house with extreme familiarity! Well, even if I were to say something like this now, but there's a part of me who isn't used to this guy appearing like this.

"Ah, Vali-sama!"

Le Fay confirmed Vali’s appearance and Elaine-san raised one of her eyebrows looking at him.

".....Le Fay-sama, this person is?"

"This person is the Hakuryuukou, Vali Lucifer-sama"

Le Fay introduced him and Elaine-san stood right in front of Vali and stared fixedly at him.

"......You're the Hakuryuukou".

Seeing the maid standing before him, Vali looked a little interested.

"Heh, you're clad in a good atmosphere. I suppose you are quite the master".

"..... You're the one who took Arthur-sama and Le Fay-sama along.....".

They showed a look like they perceived something about each other.

"....."

"....."

The two of them were gazing at each other. To stop this atmosphere which was becoming a little tense, I changed the flow of the talk asking.

"M-More importantly, Vali! You came looking for Le Fay, something happened?"

Vali sighed and pulled himself together and said.

"Yes, somehow, Arthur's behaviour was a little weird, but..... Well, somehow, I think I understood the reason for why. If someone from his home town were to come to visit here, it's not strange even if he's a little different".

"Vali-sama, what about Onii-sama and the others.....?"

Le Fay asked, She probably wanted to know about Arthur and Bikou who weren't here.

Vali shook his head.

"A little before, we met with the members of the Slash Dog team, you see. Bikou that guy, the moment he met with the [Cat] user and

the [Hawk] user, they started quarrelling. .....well, they were originally noisy saying things like:『Lucidra, Lucidra』....."

Heh, the appearance of Vali frowning is something rare. Slash Dog—— The team lead by Ikuse Tobio-san who works behind-the-scenes of 『D×D』, they seem to have a little of a connection with Vali. Azazel-sensei said some time ago.

.....By the way, what is a Lucidra? Does it refer to Vali.....? Hmm, I don't understand!

Talking about him, Bikou appeared in the room in the underground.

".....Sigh, finally. When I met the rumoured Slash Dog team and we faced each other, they started calling me a monkey. I mean, I'm a monkey Youkai, but there are other ways to say it. I mean, that side has a cat, hawk and dog users!"

.....He is full of complaints. While pouting he spewed venom without restraint. .....What happened between you and the members of Ikuse-san’s team?

Le Fay introduced the irritated Bikou to Elaine-san.

"Ah, this person is Bikou-san".

The moment she saw Bikou’s face, an honest impression flew out of Elaine-san's mouth.

"Oh, dear! What a crude expression!"

As soon as she said this, Elaine-san sealed her mouth with her hand after saying: [Ah! I'm sorry].

Ara ara, I thought she was a natural airhead, but to think she would display it here!

After a little moment of silence, I and Kuroka burst into laughter!

Well, 『What a crude expression』! I mean, that's an amazing impression!

Certainly, he's the member with the roughest face inside the Vali team, but! To be called crude!

Hearing this, Bikou's face became bright red and he became furious.

"What the hell!? Today I was called crude or monkey in the first meeting, today is the day to be extremely rude!?".

"Well, you are a crude monkey, after all".

To Kuroka's words, even Fenrir nodded his head in affirmation.

"What the hell!? Even you guys!? Dammit, I'm angry now! For the time being, I'm going to let you go on your ramen pilgrimage alone, Valiiii!!"

Surpassing rage, Bikou became teary-eyed and flew out of this place.

While giving a bitter smile, Le Fay said to Elaine-san.

"W-well, with this we ended the introduction of the members of the team of who I'm affiliated with. Later, I'll summon Gog-kun and introduce you to him".

Hearing Le Fay say like this, Elaine-san nodded.

"Yes. Somehow, I'm really relieved that they aren't like I heard from the rumours".

Elaine-san was probably concerned that the members of the Vali Team would somehow be a bad influence to Le Fay.

Probably, the people of Pendragon household thought the same.

Because she is a member of the Hakuryuukou team who are former terrorists, it wouldn't be a weird history if she were disowned. And

yet, even now, they are worried about their daughter, who is still a member of this team from the bottom of their hearts.

Looking at the habitual face of Vali and his team members, Elaine-san became relieved.

Well, although, when we first met, Vali, Bikou, Kuroka, Arthur and Fenrir were covered in an evil atmosphere!

As we continued to meet, this side of them became quiet and inconspicuous.

Who influenced them to change like this? Was it Azazel-sensei's influence? Or because the circumstances changed, they had a change of heart? .....There are those who say that is because of the influence of my 『Oppai Dragon』.....

"..... I see, so I'll have to go alone to the ramen shop. Well, sometimes this is not a bad thing".

Looking from the back, Vali looked a little lonely.

".....If you are alright with me, I can accompany you, you know?"

Vali shook his head at my proposal.

"Fu, even my rival is being considerate with me. Don't worry, there's still instant noodles".

.....Only unhealthy food. A stoic lifestyle births strength? No, I think that food that is good to the body is important too.

Seeing Vali like this, I combined all the main causes for this and started thinking that the reason for all this is in the Vali team.

A few days flew by since Elaine-san started her stay in Kuou Town.

Le Fay, who was called by her brother in the living room, under the gaze of everyone, received a present from him.

"Le Fay, this is a present for you".

Arthur gave a big wrapped box to his little sister.

"For me?"

Le Fay received it and asked her brother, seeing him nod, she opened the box. Spreading the contents inside it—— it was a Kuou Academy school uniform!

"Uah!"

With a shining expression, Le Fay took the female uniform in her hands and suddenly started happily spinning. It's the first time I see Le Fay cheerfully like this.

"Onii-sama, this is!?"

Arthur smiled at Le Fay's question.

"Yes, It's probably a little too early, but..... because as it's Le Fay, you probably can easily break through the tests. That's why I arranged it previously so that you can hold it with the meaning of making a prayer".

Heh, this Arthur, he already arranged Le Fay's uniform! Although he's a hasty older brother, to present this school uniform to his little sister was a tasteful thing to do!

"You did well knowing her size. But, how?"

Rias asked this.

Certainly, although he is her brother, as a man, Arthur knowing the size of his little sister, is a bit of a complicated thing.

While raising his glasses, Arthur looked in Elaine-san's direction.

".....Because there was someone who took her measures. I only reported the details of the measurement that this person took, to a shop. Of course, it was paid with my pocket money".

"I did at least this much. After all, it was a request of Arthur-sama.....".

Elaine-san bowed.

It's the first time they exchanged smiles.

.....

Seeing their appearance, I sensed something. Or rather, so it’s like this. A few days ago, the thing that the women living in this house perceived is this.

I became curious, so I decided to ask Le Fay.

".....Hey, Le Fay. About Arthur and Elaine-san.....".

Le Fay smiled while watching over them.

".....Yes, they are in a relationship that they understand each other's feelings".

——!

.....As expected, so it's like that. Le Fay continued.

"But, because it's a love between her and Onii-sama who have different social positions, even if they feel the same way about each other, the Pendragon household..... Onii-sama is under the situation of being very popular with formal marriage interviews, but women other than Elaine....."

Le Fay murmured like this.

However, if the current family head were to perceive these hidden feelings, it's evident that Elaine-san would be banished from the Pendragon household.

However, if Arthur were to remain in his house, then their relationship would be exposed someday. ..... Making his mind, Arthur took the Holy King Sword together with his old dream of becoming the strongest he could be with it and ran away from the Pendragon household.

..... I see, other than just having the ambition of becoming stronger, there were these kinds of circumstances to Arthur running from home too.....

What is this, dammit! He is gradually becoming an opponent that I can't hate! Above being a good older brother, he took action because he didn't want to betray the person he loves!

However, is he fleeing from the orientation of his house too? .....Maybe being born a noble means being toyed by destiny like this.

However! Something like the love between people of different status, someday, they'll definitely overcome it! Even I! Because even someone like me became lovers with Rias!

Le Fay said smiling sweetly.

"It's alright. If it's my older brother, then he'll definitely find a way to be together with Elaine. After all, It don’t look like he just recklessly left our house".

.....Arthur probably thought about something. That's right, he's probably much more intelligent than me. Then, he'll absolutely break down this situation, to be together with Elaine-san!

Dammit!

Now I can't think about Arthur like a stranger anymore! I too will be cheering for Arthur and Elaine-san’s relationship from the shadows!

I couldn't help but think so.

After Arthur safely gave his present to his sister, the time for Elaine-san who was watching it, to go back to her country, finally came.

"Then, everyone. It was a short time, but I've been under your care. Please, continue taking good care of Le Fay-sama and Arthur-sama from now on too".

Elaine-san deeply bowed her head. Everyone from the house too gave their respective final greetings.

At the last moment, I became curious about something, So I decided to ask Elaine-can indirectly.

".....S-say, I'm eligible as the contracted partner of Le Fay?"

Elaine-san put her hand on her chin and said with a severe expression.

"During my stay, you let me see various things but..... I think you're a gentleman terribly honest with your desires".

.....This is harsh!

Certainly, I probably showed my perverted side! I even became entranced with Kuroka's panties! When Le Fay had her sizes measured I looked at her with lewd eyes too! Furthermore, I have in mind many other situations like this!

But, at the moment I unconsciously started to reflect about this, Elaine-san gave a broad smile and continued her evaluation.

"——However, I felt that you are a gentle person who can be considerate too. You helped clean the room of a person who lives

together, I even became admired when you mediated between the fight of your acquaintances. I'll give you the passing mark".

——!

.....So she was looking at these parts of me. As expected, she got me. To think she would see this and that so precisely.

Elaine-san bowed once again.

"From now on too, please take good care of Le Fay-sama. Depending on your evaluation from now on, I think that Le Fay-sama and Arthur-sama may be recognized by the Pendragon household....."

While reaching out with my hand, I responded straight away.

"Yes, of course! I'll do my best".

Me and Elaine-san exchanged handshakes.

In this way, the maid-san of the Pendragon household who suddenly came to visit, left.

I only learned a little about the siblings of the Pendragon household, Le Fay and Arthur, but I think of it as a big harvest!

Collbrand

This happened immediately after the end of the preliminary of the International tournament rating game [Azazel Cup]——.

A certain place in the UK——.

Arthur Pendragon returned to the mansion of the Pendragon household after a long time.

Arthur who stole the Holy King Sword and escaped from his house, even being a terrorist for some time, was welcomed silently by his father; the family head.

Father and son sat around a table on the terrace and drank black tea. After a short silence.

The first to talk was the father, the current family head of Pendragon household.

"It looks like you lost".

"..... Yes".

It was a few words about the Rating Game match. The only fight that Arthur was completely defeated was in the match against the [Rias Gremory] team.

The family head continued.

"The opponent was *that* Vasco Strada..... can it be judged that there was nothing you could do because the opponent was that superman? Or should I praise my foolish son for having reached that territory? What a complicated state of mind".

After drinking the black tea, the family head said this.

"To question your sword technique who has surpassed me from the past, *what I'm saying*. There's a part of me who thinks like this, but..... these are my honest words, so for the time being, listen to them. Collbrand is praised as the strongest holy sword, but even so, it's just a tool made to be used by a person. It's the same with the other holy swords and demonic swords. depending on the user, it can become the supreme sword or just a piece of metal".

"..... My ability, ……talent is not enough? Is what you want to say?"

Arthur asked like this.

The family head smiled just a little.

"You aren't flexible enough. Since when you were a child, you were strangely serious about your talent. For that reason, you escaped from home and did something like travelling around to gain combat skills. However, from the part that you did those bad things, you learned how to enjoy yourself differently from when you were here. It's probably because of your undesirable friends".

"Being flexible about your talent means?"

"It's about your life. You, there are times that *you think that you are Collbrand*. That your talent and reason for existence is equal to that of Collbrand".

"——!"

To his father's words, Arthur thought that he was ruthlessly cut down.

The family head said.

"The current Sekiryuutei didn't only become strong with the dragon abilities residing in his body. I heard that he has his current reputation because of his interest in the opposite sex too. In your

case, even your rare talent with the sword has a limit. ——if it becomes like this, you can only become stronger by experiencing everything from life. Isn’t your friend, the Hakuryuukou, obsessed with certain types of pasta too?"

"That could be called gluttony——".

As if interrupting his son's words, the family head thrust his finger.

"It's alright to go through the side road. By the way, don't count black tea as your hobby. It's an obvious etiquette to a gentleman from Great Britain. Search from something other than this. Firstly, it's alright to just take Le Fay to shop. Well, what I mean is, expand the time that you forget about the sword. If you do it, leeway will be born and flexibility will reside in your sword. If you think I'm deceiving you, you just need to test it. This is an advice from the previous Collbrand user".

Since a long time ago, Arthur was bad at compromising with his father..... Or rather, he has a different sense of value from him.

However, this time he was greatly impressed by him.

To swing the Holy King Sword from a different aspect than just talent..... No, not the Holy King Sword, but to find the diversity of oneself——.

Suddenly, the family head rang the bell and called a maid..... called Elaine. Arthur's eyes meet with Elaine's. Elaine bowed while smiling.

The family head said to Elaine.

"Elaine, bring those documents".

"Understood".

After a short while, Elaine brought a bunch of paper documents.

The family head said while handing it to Arthur.

"I have a request for you. .....No, to be correct, a request to the Hakuryuukou and the 『D×D』 team".

In the documents were—— information concealed by the Royal family.

To Arthur looking at the documents, the family head said.

"Finally, the Royal family decided to reveal their internal problems. A new Longinus. Do you know that 5 new Longinues were registered, right?"

"Yes. They even participated in this rating game tournament. ..... I see It's one of them".

"—— the Longinus [Unparalleled Crown of the Abyss], seems to be an extremely troublesome Sacred Gear. Looks like before, Grigori and Heaven indirectly understood it, but the Royal family and the government of the UK are stubbornly sealing information about it".

"..... From all people, it did have to come out of someone related to the house of the Royal family".

"That it didn't come out of someone from Her majesty’s family is a consolation in this sadness".

".....You want us to take care of this person?"

"The majority of the members of 『D×D』 team are participating in the tournament; therefore, their time is probably limited, but I would be grateful if they could do it as fast as possible".

"I can only provide them with information but..... well, we'll do it somehow. After all, they are a group of people who generally overcome everything".

After drinking his tea, the family head said calmly.

"If you finish this incident without a problem, I will approve of your relationship with Elaine".

With these words, Arthur and Elaine widened their eyes at the same time—— and after understanding what he said, blushed.

With her heart beating fast, Elaine said.

"M-master, w-w-w-w-w-w-what are you saying suddenly.....!"

Arthur too fixed his glasses with trembling hands. His ears were bright red.

The family head said.

"Although you are a son who fell so low as to be something like a terrorist for some time, nowadays you're in a position where you can get hold of all kinds of connections. You should be grateful to Vali Lucifer, Hyoudou Issei and Le Fay. I mean, only because my son and daughter are in the 『D×D』 team, I'm called upon to explain to the influential persons of the political and business circles who know of the circumstances of the supernatural world, after all".

For those of the human world who know about the supernatural, the anti-terrorist team, 『D×D』 has a great influential power. From only holding those connections one has great authority.

After sighing, the family head changed the subject of the talk.

"By the way, is Le Fay in good health?"

Even with his mood in ruins, Arthur behaved calmly.

"Y-yes. She's used to the school on that side now".

"Hmm. Do you think she'll do well with the Sekiryuutei?"

"..... Wa-, father, since some time ago, you are a little too direct".

"It's my nature. then? How is it? Did Le Fay really fall for him? What is her rank?"

"No, as I've been saying....."

"The daughter of my Pendragon household and the Dragon of Wales—— the

『Red Dragon』. I'm really interested in holding a connection with Wales, which is part of this country, but firstly, I have to see If he's someone with nothing to criticize about; and can take someone from Pendragon household as his wife. The other part is already a High-class Devil, right? His parents are plebeians? Well, it is too late for this. The problem is the future prospects of the current Sekiryuutei. In the end, Will he become a Maou? What do you think?"

Arthur facepalmed while troubled about what to say.

..... *As expected, my senses of value are different from father's*, these thoughts of Arthur became stronger——.

However, Arthur had a premotion that it wouldn't take long before that Sekiryuutei stepped in these lands.

Life.3 Sleepover Party for the Gifted and Talented

This is something that immediately happened after the beginning of the New Year, when the 『Church warriors』's coup d'état ended and things calmed down.

In the corner of the room of the Occult Research Club, Kiba and Irina were talking with serious appearances.

"——Then, about this incident, but the church——"

"——That's right, the information from the higher-ups——"

It looked like they were talking about the Church and Heaven, Koneko-chan said to me who was curious.

"..... It seems they settled the talk about Tosca-san with the church side".

Ah– I see.

I understand the words that Koneko-chan said.

『Tosca』 is the name of Kiba's old comrade, who was brought by the church warriors at the coup d'état of a few days ago.

Kiba thought he had lost all of his comrades, but only one of them, a girl, miraculously survived. This is the girl called Tosca.

Currently, we took custody of this girl, Tosca from the warriors of the church side and with Kiba as the centre, we were taking care of her. However, the many years that she was unconscious is not something that can be immediately recuperated.

Moreover, she was in an unfamiliar land, living in an unfamiliar house, so her concerns aren't something ordinary.

And because she's not a Devil or an Angel, but rather just a normal human, she needed to learn Japanese from the beginning.

However, even so, Tosca-san wished to be together with Kiba, her only comrade who survived and she had a fortuitous encounter with.

Kiba accepted it joyfully and was giving his assistance.

"I'm teaching Japanese her too".

The new Buchou of the Occult Research Club, Asia said that.

That's right, all the women who live in the Hyoudou Residence were cooperating and helping to take care of Tosca-san. But suddenly being surrounded by many women who she just met for the first time, it seemed like Tosca-san was extremely confused by it.

She was a little afraid of us, who are Devils.....

".....It looks like Tosca-san is a bit scared of Rias ex-buchou".

Koneko-chan said.

The reason why Tosca-san feared Rias is——because she was raised in a genuine church institution. And there, pure High-class Devils like Rias, were a target to be feared more than we imagined. She still can't look directly at Rias.

Maybe it was something to be expected.

If you were to imprint this kind of thought that [Devils are the enemies] or [Devils are evil creatures] on someone, and a High-class Devil suddenly appeared before your eyes, you probably would fear them as well.

Kiba was also extremely vigilant towards Rias when he met her for the first time, ... this is a bitter aspect for those who came from the church institutions.....

Although Tosca became emotionally attached to Asia and Xenovia, who were Devils as well. The large reason behind it was that she somehow heard of Asia and Xenovia's names when she was at the institute.

In conclusion, Rias was basically working as a backup and the members of the new Occult Research Club were responsible for Tosca-san.

Rias' small regretful expression was memorable, but..... there was nothing we could do about it.

When I was tilting my head in contemplation, someone opened the door of the club with momentum.

"Yahoo, everyone of the Occult Research Club! I've come to play!"

It was the schoolgirl filled with lewd knowledge, Kiryuu! This girl! Ever since Asia became the new Buchou and she discovered our identities, she always found time to show her face in the club! The Occult Research Club became a gathering spot for lewd knowledge!

"It's more wholesome than your lewd gaze, you knew?"

While raising her glasses, Kiryuu said this to me! Dammit! She's the type who could read my thoughts too!

Finding Kiba and Irina who were talking, Kiryuu approached them.

"Kiba-kyun paisen and Irina-san found. Hey, is Tosca-chan doing well?"

She casually started talking to them! Jeez, does she know about Tosca-san? This girl, after knowing the truth about us, her attacks are a little too quick!?

Kiba replied with a smile.

"Kiryuu-san, thanks to the reference book you gave her, Tosca started becoming interested in the words of the Japanese language".

"Because many children raised in a church institution are bad dealing with people, Kiryuu-san encouragement really helped".

——Kiba and Irina said.

So Kiryuu..... encouraged Tosca-san.

Asia said.

"To be honest, Tosca-san really opened her heart to Kiryuu-san..... As expected, because she's a human woman like her, it seems she can relax".

Heh–, so it was like that.

Ah, now that you mentioned it, Kiryuu instantly got along with Asia and Xenovia, who were originally bad at dealing with people.

If we thought about it from this aspect, then maybe Kiryuu has some kind of talent to make women who came out of the church open themselves to her.

However, I had a slight concern. .....I mean, It's Kiryuu, you know? She is the person responsible for imparting lewd knowledge into Asia. However, with the exception of me, everyone from the Occult Research Club seemed to somehow really trust her. Her popularity was really high.

"Because it's thanks to me that Asia and the others started their lewd attacks, you should be a little grateful".

Did she read my thoughts again?

Kiryuu turned her head toward here and said something like that!

Dammit!

If you say something like this, it becomes hard to counterattack! I mean, the bold behaviour of Asia and the others become one of my sources of energy!

I'm grateful for it! But, I didn’t make Asia-chan and the others become perverts!

Kiryuu said with her glasses shining.

"Now Kiba-kun, is the thing we checked a few days ago is ok?"

Kiryuu asked Kiba.

Kiba replied with a broad smile.

"Yes. It’s because Tosca wants to open herself to my comrades too".

While I was puzzled by this talk between them, Kiba said.

"To be honest, I wanted to hold an exchange between the members of the Occult Research Club and Tosca. Irina-san and Kiryuu-san were helping polish the plan. Since we live in this city, I want her to gradually get along with everyone".

Unexpectedly, he said this with great optimism. I mean, although Kiba was usually clad in his signature gentle atmosphere; he was surprisingly strict with himself and his comrades when it was related to special training or workout, as well as physical and mental training.

Xenovia had her weakness pointed at her countless times by him.

"But will it be alright? Won’t it be a little too harsh on her?"

I was being considerate to Tosca-san who just woke up and put herself in a foreign country.

Kiba shook his head.

"It's not like that. Tosca is surprisingly mischievous, even in our house—— .....Well, let's leave this kind of conversation for later. Anyway, using this weekend, I'll take Tosca to Ise-kun's house".

Kiryuu who was on his side intervened saying: [I'll be going to].

.....Kiryuu will come to educate Tosca-san. Suddenly, Kiryuu looked at the direction of the door.

"..... And it seems like we have a guest".

Looking there, the door was a little open and someone was peeking inside the room.

"..... Who could it be?"

As I was approaching the door, the person peeking perceived that she was found out and fully opened the door. The one on the other side of the opened door was—— The ex-fuku-Kaichou, Shinra-senpai!?

"S-Shinra-senpai!? Why are you here?"

To my question, Shinra-senpai who was petrified in a weird position, hurriedly fixed her posture and cleared her throat.

"Co-Cough, because I'm under the free attendance period, I thought about looking around the school.....kyun, so I thought about looking at the old school carefully".

Considering all that, she was giving fleeting glances at Kiba direction..... s-so it was like that. Although I think she was interested in the talk we were having. Well, she was interested in it because it was a conversation made by Kiba, who she is obsessed with.

Moreover, Rias heard from Sona ex-Kaichou that Shinra-senpai is really curious about Tosca-san.

Ah, I suddenly saw the glasses of Kiryuu shining.

"Shinra-senpai, do you want to join the plan too?"

And she said something like this! Shinra-senpai was surprised but in an instant, her face started shining, though she suddenly made a strict expression and gave a fake cough again.

"......I-I understand. If you are fine with me, then I'll help with my poor ability".

..... Se-serious? So will Shinra-senpai be joining the meeting with Tosca-san too?

I don't know what is going to happen, but if it is for Kiba's important comrade, then I'll work hard too!

"Ok, Kiba. I'll help too. What should I do?"

Before Kiba finished saying [Thank you], Kiryuu instantly said.

"Then, we'll do a sleepover party at your house! If we eat rice from the same pot and pass the whole day together, naturally she'll open herself to others!"

This girl only made unreasonable requests! However, well, this is a way too. The members in this club room nodded in affirmation too.

It was decided that Tosca-san would come to play at my house this weekend.

The weekend—— late at night on Friday.

From this day, until the start of the week on Monday, it was decided that Tosca-san would be staying in the Hyoudou Residence. After our Devil jobs ended, the party started.

Tosca-san, who lives together with Kiba and Gasper, already arrived. Shinra-senpai, who declared she would participate, already arrived as well.

".....Go-good night. U-un, I'll be under your care for the next three days".

Tosca-san, who learned to greet in Japanese, quickly bowed her head.

She was a girl with white hair, which was tied into two braids. I heard she came out of the same origin as Freed and Siegfried, That warrior training institution.

However, she didn't meet the requirements requested by the warrior training institution, so she was quickly sent to the same research institution as Kiba.

Hmm, she was different from that Freed bastard, as She is a really cute girl.

"Hello, I'll be under your care too"

All of a sudden, Kiryuu appeared from Kiba's back. Because this girl would be staying at the Hyoudou Residence for three days too, it was somehow scary..... as we don’t know what’s going to happen.. Ah, or rather, was this the first time she came to my house?

Even though she has such a good relationship with Asia and the others, she didn't come here to play.

Well, It would be bad if she knew of our identities, so it couldn't be helped. After all, this girl is unusually sharp.

Rias received everyone.

"Welcome to the Hyoudou Residence . You're welcome here, Kiryuu-san and Tosca-san too".

Rias was clearly smiling but——Tosca-san hurriedly hid behind Kiba's back..... as expected. Was she still afraid of Rias?

While showing a bitter smile, Rias urged us to enter the house.

Kiryuu turned her face towards the stairs connecting with the second floor and said.

"All right, let's start the hunt for Asia's room! If I'm not wrong, it’s on the second floor? Asia, I'm going to see if you have lewd underwear!".

Kiryuu started walking briskly!

"Kiryuu-saaaaaaaannnnnn! Please, wait!"

Asia-chan followed after her! Damn you, Kiryuu! If you behave too lewd I'm going to intervene!

From the entrance hall, Shinra-senpai surveyed the interior of the house while raising her glasses.

"..... This is the first time in my life that I'll stay overnight in a boy’s house..... However, I thought about it before but because there are so many girls here, it doesn't feel like a boy’s house ".

It was certainly as Shinra-senpai said. The number of girls living in this house was overwhelmingly higher than the number of boys.

Rather than a boy’s house, this place felt like a female student dormitory.

Kiba stood by my side and said enthusiastically.

"Let's start the tea party immediately".

"Yes, that's right".

I had the same opinion, So as I thought about talking with someone first, Tosca-san started staring at my face. She then shifted her gaze to Kiba's face.

Suddenly she started looking at us with a profound meaning.

..... Was me and Kiba standing side by side something rare?

Or was it something that picked her interest? I puzzledly continued to think about Tosca-san's gaze.

"..... Good evening Yuuto senpai, Gya-kun, Tosca-san and Shinra-senpai".

It was Koneko-chan's voice. Looking upwards, she was just descending to the entrance hall through the stairs. She was going to join the tea party.

First Step 1: Koneko-chan and Tosca-san.

"....."

"....."

On the sofa of an empty room on the floor upstairs, Koneko-chan and Tosca-san were looking at each other in silence.

Koneko-chan was simply silent, but Tosca-san curled herself up in embarrassment.

For the time being, the two of them were acquaintances. Because Koneko-chan often helped Kiba to support Tosca-san lifestyle; the two of them would meet whenever that happened.

Kiba cut up a handmade cake that he brought from the mansion and distributed it between us.

Koneko-chan, who filled her mouth with cake, said.

"Yuuto-senpai is very skilled at cooking. He can basically make any kind of sweets, like this cake".

Tosca-san continued Koneko-chan's talk.

"......Yes, I'm always surprised by Isaiah's food. To think that he would be able to make this kind of food so skillfully..... before this, I didn't even know that the outside world had this kind of delicious food".

What a frank impression. ......It reminded me of when Asia started living here.

When Asia, who was raised in the church as well, came here, she became surprised and happy by tasting all kinds of food.

Well, that was probably a natural reaction, since she came from a simple lifestyle.

"......As expected, Kiba-kun's cake is delicious".

Shinra-senpai was moved to tears by eating Kiba's cake on my side. She was also moved when she ate a cake that Kiba made on Christmas too.

While suddenly looking at Gasper, Koneko-chan asked Tosca-san.

"..... You don't fear Gya-kun? He often enters into a cardboard box and he covers his head with a paper bag, so doesn't that make you afraid of him?"

Ah–If a person were to see Gasper for the first time and he enters inside a cardboard box or covers his head with a paper bag, that may be hard on her. Because he releases a strange intensity.

Since Koneko-chan already lived together with Gasper, she probably was curious about that.

"I don't make Tosca-san afraid. .....Right?"

While raising this objection, Gasper tried to confirm with the person herself.

Tosca-san unintentionally let out a quiet laugh.

"Initially I was surprised that he was a Vampire and was a bit scared, but because I've never heard of a Vampire who enters inside a box.....somehow I became troubled on how to react".

Because she was raised in a church institute, she probably was taught the dangers of a Vampire, so it was natural to be on guard against something that was originally her enemy, but..... Gasper was a Vampire who often enters inside a cardboard box.

Seeing Tosca-san‘s reaction, they opened themselves to each other. Probably because they were living together, this kind of adaptation was fast.

"If Gya-kun does something weird, you just need to make him drink a bowl of soup with ground garlic".

Koneko-chan made this kind of joke.

The aforementioned Gasper replied: [That is terrible, Koneko-chan!] and raised a complaint, but since it's Gasper, so it was ok.

—— Tosca-san then asked Koneko-chan while being bashful.

".....I heard from Isaiah, that you are something like a little sister to him..... u-ur, so, I would be happy if you let me hear you talk about when you meet Isaiah.....".

.....Ah, I see.

Tosca-san probably wants to know the details about Kiba after the Holy Sword project. Because hearing the details from the person himself and hearing the details from a friend of his is quite different.

Koneko-chan smiled sweetly.

"Yes, Yuuto-senpai is like an onii-chan to me too. Understood, I'll talk about the day we meet. .....Even if I say that, Yuuto-senpai was a rascal when we met".

Koneko-chan leaked a small laugh. Seeing that, Kiba said [With moderation, please.] while showing a bitter smile.

While Koneko-chan started talking about her memories, there was someone who opened the door of the room a little and was listening to the talk——.

".....I'm curious nyan.....".

It was Kuroka.

Was she curious about Tosca-san or was she curious about what Koneko-chan was talking of her past? Or was she curious about the handmade cake that Kiba made?

Well, it's probably all of them.

I moved quietly to the door and silently opening it encouraged Kuroka by asking her: [Do you want to enter?]

"Then, I'll do so without reservation".

At first, Tosca-san was surprised at the onee-san with cat ears, but because she was more interested in what Koneko-chan was talking about, she immediately returned her focus to there.

Hmm, this is a good trend. I was listening to the talk while feeling relieved, but Kiba suddenly asked.

"Did the cake suit your taste?"

"Hm? Yes, I liked it".

It was a quite sweet Sachertorte, but eating it while drinking black tea made it reasonable, so much that the fork moved unconsciously.

"Later, I'll bake the cheesecake that Ise-kun likes".

"Yes, that's good. .....Wait, why do you know the kind of cake I like.....?"

I threw this question at him, but..... suddenly, I perceived that I was being watched.

Because Tosca-san was glancing at mine—— and Kiba's situation. Did we do something unusual?

"This happened a few years ago, When I and Yuuto-senpai went to a certain department store. We become lost inside the department store——".

While I was confused, Koneko-chan continued talking about her past.

Step Two 2: Tosca-san and the two Onee-sans

Then, after the talk of Koneko-chan and Tosca-san reached a stopping point.

"Ara, ara, may I intrude too?"

Holding Matcha latte (green tea with milk), Akeno-san appeared.

"Let me blend in as well".

From her back, Rossweisse-san appeared too.

Tosca-san easily opened to Gasper and Koneko-chan who were of a similar age to hers, but how would she deal with these older onee-san's? I heard that she is still wary of Rias.....

Just as I thought, Tosca-san showed a nervous expression at Akeno-san and Rossweisse-san’s arrival .

Akeno-san asked.

"What were you talking about?"

Koneko-chan replied [About the Yuuto-senpai of back then].

Akeno-san smiled hearing those words and smiled at Tosca-san.

"If you're alright with me, I can talk about Yuuto-kun too. Because since he came to this side, me and Rias have been watching over him like a little brother".

That's right. Akeno-san is a senior like Rias, who has been watching over Kiba since he reincarnated as a Devil. So probably there is a side of Kiba which has only been seen by this onee-san.

As one would expect, Kiba became embarrassed as well and started scratching his cheeks with his finger.

Tosca-san smiled at Akeno-san response.

After drinking the Matcha latte, her expression became even more relaxed.

".....It's warm. It's a little bitter but it’s sweet too. It's warm, comfortable and delicious".

Tosca-san leaked this impression after drinking Akeno-san's Matcha latte.

Well, because it's Akeno-san’s genuine Matcha latte after all. I heard she learned it from her mother and Rias' mother, as she was quite skilled at it. She grew proficient in making tea latte and other varieties of it.

Because green tea would probably be quite bitter for Tosca-san who just arrived in Japan, so she made it a latte instead.

This was Akeno-san's way of being considerate.

"..... I make tea too, but I've never done it a latte. Should I ask Himejima-san later?"

Shinra-senpai, who was seated on my side, said in admiration of Akeno-san tea skills.

After everyone started drinking the Matcha latte, Akeno-san started talking.

".....Oh well, a fond memory that I have with Yuuto-kun was when the four of us; me, Rias, Koneko-chan and Yuuto-kun, went to a farm some years ago. That day, Yuuto-kun became obsessed with the experience of milking a cow——".

That night, Kiba's embarrassing past was exposed——.

After Akeno-san more or less finished talking, Rossweisse-san started her [100 yen shop lecture] until late at night.

Step Three 3: Tosca-san and the Church Trio + *α*.

On the morning of the first night.

.....This time, the group of women didn't sleep in my room. In exchange, Kiba and Gasper were sleeping in my room on futons that were quickly arranged above some tatamis.

How much time has passed since I had boys sleep in my room?

If it was before I met with Rias and the others, Matsuda and Motohama already came here to stay overnight, but..... Well, because we had a kind of boys party last night, our tension was strangely high, so we played a board game until the sky cleared.

Something like a boys party in my room wasn’t bad! Even I want to play with my friends in my room!

And now came the second day since Tosca-san began staying at my house.

.....Because we went to sleep in the early morning, we boys woke up just before noon as we completely skipped breakfast.

I wanted to join the breakfast with all the girls, but..... maybe we did something bad to Tosca-san.

Leaving my room and walking through the corridor, what flew in my sight was the church trio with Kiryuu and Tosca-san.

Looking in their direction, Tosca-san had her hands joined and was devoting a prayer to Irina!?

"Oh, Angel Irina-sama! Please watch over me this entire day as well!"

Irina didn't seem dissatisfied, so she showed her wings and halo while making an expression of ecstasy and replied.

"Yes, Tosca-san. So that you can have the blessing of Heaven today too——, Amen".

.....What are you doing? I became troubled about how to react to this.

To be honest, Tosca-san looked at Irina as if she was looking at something sacred. Well, Irina is the first Angel she has met.

Up until now, she only knew about Angels through the things she was taught, so when she met an Angel, probably something came in her believer's heart.

Because the moment they met, she was instantly moved to tears and prayed to Irina. Irina was satisfied about being treated as an Angel, while Tosca-san was greatly satisfied for having met an Angel.

It was a Win-Win situation.

I heard that Irina took care of Tosca-san in the Church too. And, since she was a child that was originally raised in the Church institute, it wasn’t weird for her to hold on to her beliefs. There's no way that Heaven would disregard her after taking into account her story.

A Church-related institute near Kuou city was helping with her faith.

Ah, I only perceived their clothes now. It was the kind of appearance used to go outside.

"Hey, are you girls going somewhere?"

Xenovia replied to my question.

"Yes, we plan to go women shopping with these members".

Heh, shopping is it? .....ah, somehow, I understood it.

For someone raised in the Church, something like shopping would be unexpectedly difficult to do, or rather, it was something similar to a taboo. Because a believer was meant to forsake the earthly desires and devote themselves to faith entirely.

Especially the children raised in the Church institutes, as when they become old enough to understand what's going on around themselves, they were already preached about the teachings of God and devoted their bodies to their faith——.

Asia, Xenovia and Irina were raised in the Church too, but since coming to this city they allowed themselves a certain degree of freedom, which resulted in the fact that they could experience many things that were considered to be taboo for believers.

As a result, the Church Trio were fully enjoying the usual lifestyle of normal school girls.

Kiba said this in my room last night.

『Because I want Tosca to enjoy her current lifestyle, I wanted to at least take her shopping in a department store.』

Kiba gently said this. .....He probably wanted his comrade to enjoy her everyday life. He probably wants to show to her the fun side of this world which she was unable to experience at the Church institute.

Because Tosca-san was together with other Church members and Kiryuu, who are members of the same sex that were easy to deal with , she had a cheerful expression.

Kiba said.

"Everyone, I leave Tosca in your care".

Because a women-only gathering was important, Kiba entrusted Tosca to Asia and the others.

We, the group who entrusted Tosca-san, to the Church Trio went:

"Let's eat a late breakfast".

I said this stretching myself and Kiba replied cheerfully.

"I'll make breakfast, Ise-kun. Is Japanese food alright or do you prefer Western cooking? I'll make anything".

Japanese-style is good, but Western-style is hard to let go..... While I was concerned about how to reply, I felt that I was being stared at by someone.

Just before leaving, Tosca-san was watching me—— no, she was watching me and Kiba with a profound gaze.

Step Four 4: Tosca-san and..... Me?

That night, everyone ate dinner together.

In the end, Tosca-san opened up to everyone? With the Church Trio and Kiryuu as the centre, Tosca-san talked with everyone.

She was confused when she met Le Fay, who is a Magician for the first time, but through Asia and Koneko-chan meditation, she softened her attitude.

Ravel wasn't here right now, but when she returns, I want her and Tosca-san to become friends through a tea party.

Or rather.

"Tosca-san, it's alright, you know? They are all gentle people, so there's nothing to be afraid of. The Lord is always watching over us".

As if making a performance, Irina said this and Tosca-san too...

"Yes! Angel-sama!"

Tosca-san started to have her heart strongly held by Irina's words. .....It became an indescribable situation but did Xenovia think of this as something extremely interesting?

She was laughing hard from beginning to end. She probably couldn't deal with this attitude of Irina.

Tosca-san was able to talk with basically everyone, but.....I perceived it coming up to this point. Tosca-san was only avoiding me and Rias!

She didn't talk with me in the slightest! Even when I indirectly talk with her.

"....."

She becomes silent!

Moreover, when that happened, why would she look at Kiba's reaction!?

As expected, was she scared of any guy other than Kiba!? No, she opened herself to that guy who enters into cardboard boxes and who dresses in female clothes, Gysuke, so it's not limited to that!

.....Ma-maybe, I'm no good because I'm a pervert? But, I didn't look at Tosca-san in a sexual way even once, you know?

As one would expect, I can't look at Kiba's comrade who just woke up in this way! If I were to look at her in that way, I'll at least wait a few years. Or rather, when her oppai grows a little more.....!

No, no, apart from me, I at least wanted her to open with Rias.

Although she's a High-class Devil, she's a gentle and wonderful woman. She'll definitely be good friends with Tosca-san. But as expected, a High-Class [Devil] is something scary for her..... Rias isn't a human who reincarnated into a Devil, but a pureblood Devil.

.....That is a hard thing to do for a devout believer.....

After dinner, I was tilting my head in contemplation in the living room. Everyone took a relaxed posture in the living room. Of course, Tosca-san was here too.....

Suddenly, Kiryuu started saying.

"Come to think of it, Hyoudou's reputation among the girls at school has been changing lately".

——!

Th-this is a really interesting talk.

"Heh–, in what way?"

I unconsciously asked. It's my reputation between girls, so of course I'm curious about it!

After drinking black tea, Kiryuu replied.

"Hmm–, they said this: *'He's not a wild beast as I thought, or him being carnivorous is something rare these days.'* Compared to before, they don't hold as much prejudice towards you now".

——!! How did this happen?! This kind of dramatic sudden reversal can happen!?

I was surprised at my reevaluation, if only a small amount.

Because for some time, I was insulted as the embodiment of sexual desire or wild beast and I was even suspected of being in a homosexual relationship with Kiba, but coming here, this kind of thing happened.....

"Serious? .....Before I noticed it, did my manly charm grow?"

I tried to act a little cool as I put my hand on my chin, but Kiryuu completely discarded it.

"I don't know, maybe it's not that? However, the change in your reputation started with Kiba-kun".

"I? .....Did I say something?"

Kiba was surprised that his name suddenly came out in the talk.

Kiryuu continued.

"Kiba-kun was asked by the girls, right?"

『In Kiba-kun's perspective; what do you think of Hyoudou-kun?』

——It looks like the girls asked this question to Kiba.

Kiba seems to have remembered about it too .

"Ah, if it's about that, certainly I replied like this——"

Kiba replied like this:

『Well, Ise-kun is a pervert. However, I think that every boy of this age is like that too. He just let's it show on the surface a little easier. But he has a strong sense of responsibility and won't look down on anyone, so as someone of the same sex, he's someone extremely easy to get along with.』

To these clear and gentlemanly words said by Kiba, maybe the girls reconsidered their opinions about me and that was connected with my reevaluation.

.....Uuhh! What one needs to have is a good friend! Dammit, unlike Matsuda and Motohama, Kiba is properly looking at me!

I hugged Kiba's neck with my arms!

"Thank you, buddy! You are the only one who would say something like that for me!!"

I started crying aloud!

I mean, the only boy of the same generation as me who would say these kinds of nice things about me was this guy!

Of course, I would become moved!

"Hahaha, it hurts, Ise-kun".

Kiba looked a little embarrassed, but something like this is alright! Okay, on the second night of this sleepover party, we boys are going to talk until dawn again!

Tosca-san, who until now was watching the situation silently, suddenly opened her mouth.

".....Sa-say"

What! She's looking at me and started a conversation!

"Yes? well, Tosca.....-san"

I replied while being surprised. While gulping down the saliva in her mouth, Tosca-san asked after strengthening her will.

".....Er, what kind of relationship do the two of you have.....?"

".....Yes?"

When I asked in return, Tosca-san said in a loud voice.

".....I asked what kind of relationship you have with Isaiah?!"

Ah, my relationship with Kiba.....? I and Kiba looked at each other's faces and I replied.

".....Something like a friend? A comrade? A peer....."

I replied like this, but Tosca-san stood where she was and started complaining with teary eyes!

".....I think that『Bieru』is u-u-unhealthy!"

——!!!?? .....B, Bieru? She means BL!? W-what the hell is this!!!

".....Tosca-san!? W-w-where did you learn that kind of thing!?"

I asked this question! This isn't the kind of knowledge that one easily gets by living normally!

While looking at Kiryuu's direction, Tosca-san said bashfully.

".....It was written in the reference book that K-Kiryuu-san lent me! The relationship between Hyoudou Issei-san and Isaiah is 『Bieru』, a phenomenon when two men love each other! Y-you can't! The Lord said that men and women should join together!"

Tosca-san started complaining to me and Kiba, whose faces were bright red!

I looked at Kiryuu's direction!

"Fufufu"

This girl! With her glasses shining, she raised the corner of the mouth as if smiling! It was a premeditated crime!? You lend a [BL book] to Tosca-san as a Japanese reference book !?

She set up such an absurd cultural exchange to a pure believer little girl! This glasses-girl!

Ha! I suddenly understood everything!

The reason why Tosca-san was glancing at me and Kiba ——it was about this! She was interested in my relationship with Kiba and she couldn't do anything about it!

Tosca-san asked Kiba directly!

"Isaiah! How is it.....? What do you think about..... Hyoudou Issei-san?"

"This is something that I want to ask too. What is it, Kiba-kun!?"

Even Shinra-senpai, who was watching carefully until now, came asking this! Shinra-senpai, why are you being proactive in this kind of time!?

Talking about Kiba——he lowered his head and just said a few words.

"W-well..... we are friends..... you know?"

Don't say this kind of thing with a bright red face! You'll just create a misunderstanding, you know!?

"Y-you love him!?"

"S-so you love him!?"

Tosca-san and Shinra-senpai pressed for more answers! Look, look, it became something like this!

Or rather, Tosca-san and Shinra-senpai are showing more expressions now than ever before!

Kiba, while looking at my direction, was troubled in how to deal with it.

".....T-this kind of thing in the front of the person himself is a little difficult..... right?"

No, no, no, no, no, no! What kind of reply is that!? It's alright to just say [We are friends!], right!? Why do you need to reply in this needless way to create misunderstanding!?

Seeing Kiba's reaction, Tosca-san's body started trembling all over.

"A-as expected, you love him..... you are 『Bieru』..... Isaiah became a bad child.....".

Shinra-senpai was trembling too.

".....They are BL... As expected, Hyoudou-kun and Kiba-kyun are BL.....".

However, she showed a little smile.

".....Yes, no, but this isn’t that bad".

She said something like this! Shinra-senpai is alright with this kind of thing!?

Suddenly, Shinra-senpai took Tosca-san's hand!

"Tosca-san! Let's work hard so that we don't lose to Hyoudou-kun!"

"Yes, I don't understand it very well, but『Bieru』is absolutely not good!"

Somehow, the words of these two didn't engage with each other, but did they have a mutual understanding only with their minds!?

Noooo! Please, give me a break!!

For me, this sleepover party became a hell which gave birth misunderstandings——.

There was one more thing that happened during Tosca-san exchange, but to be honest, it was a secret story.

On the night of the last day, Tosca-san made up her mind and—— talked to Rias.

"......I was always unable to ask, but I made my determination....."

Tosca-san straightly asked Rias.

".....Could you tell me about when you met Isaiah?"

Smiling, Rias readily consented with [Yes.]

Tosca-san wasn't afraid of Rias because she was a Devil.

Rias knew everything about Kiba since he reincarnated into a Devil.

That's why, since Tosca-san reached the conclusion that Kiba died an unnatural death, she was afraid from the bottom of her heart that he succumbed to his desire for revenge.

However, she wanted to know more about her only remaining comrade; Kiba.

With this state of mind, Tosca-san put all her courage together one way or another and asked Rias.

And then, finally, overcome with emotion and with a tearful voice, Tosca-san conveyed what she really wanted to say to Rias.

"——Really, thank you very much for helping Isaiah"

Receiving these words, Rias shed tears too and said.

"Hmm, and you too. Thank you for being alive".

Rias replied like that——.

After this sleepover party, Tosca-san was able to frequently show us a cute smile——.

From now on, we'll continue to live together and get along with Tosca-san! Right? Kiba!

Life.4 Go West!

“Geez! I can’t use that skill either…”

“Rather than that, what’s with this event!? Why is that general over there betraying!?”

“In any case, it’s kind of fun because of how it’s like walking into a completely different world.”

This happened on a particular day when Xenovia, Irina and Asia all became rather emotional as they watched a video game that was on the TV screen. The Church Trio accompanied me in my room as I played an open-world RPG. And then—

“Hey, do you have a moment nya.”

Just like that, Kuroka appeared. …If she was here, it probably meant that she wanted to play games again! Kuroka always took over my (and our) game consoles to play without permission, and she would also use our save data! Could she understand my feelings when the romance events in an RPG that I was looking forward to were skipped without my permission!? Therefore, I was somewhat on alert…but then Le Fay appeared behind Kuroka, so it didn’t seem as though they were here just to play games.

“Oh, so you and Le Fay came here to ask something huh.”

With an apologetic tone, Le Fay asked,

“To be honest, there’s something that we’d like your help with…”

“Something?”

I passed the controller to Xenovia as I returned the question to Le Fay. With a somewhat troubled expression, Kuroka explained,

“We’re responsible for taking care of the newcomers to our team right now.”

Newcomers? In other words, the new members of the Vali team? Hold on, is it really okay to just ask me for help? After all…we are rivals.

“You want me to help? Your team? Is that alright?”

Although we were both members of the same anti-terrorist team [DxD], we were once on hostile terms and above all, Vali was my rival as one of the Two Heavenly Dragons…. I was somewhat at a loss on how to respond, and Kuroka simply shrugged as she seemed to understand what was going through my mind.

“I guess. But it seems like we’ve run into a bit of trouble which is why we want your help, Sekiryuutei-chan. It’s mainly about Bikou.”

Bikou? Hmm, I wasn’t really familiar with the situation. I had no clue about what those guys were up to and where they were these days, so it seemed like they just came and went sporadically whenever they dropped by.

“Would you also like us to provide some assistance?”

“If you’re short on manpower, we can lend a hand.”

Asia and Irina commented…. To kick things off, I asked Kuroka,

“Would I be able to manage it on my own?”

In response, Kuroka uninterestedly replied,

“I think so.”

Was it that boring for her? The addition of new members to a team was usually quite an important matter, so it wouldn’t normally be strange for the members to be interested….

“Oh alright. I get it. I’ll hear you out for now.”

Although I still had many questions and doubts on the matter, I decided to listen to the whole story first before I came to a verdict.

“As expected from you. That’s a great help nya.”

“Thank you so much!”

Kuroka and Le Fay both seemed relieved as they responded. Playing the video game in my place, Xenovia said,

“Ise, your growth strategy is all over the place. I don’t feel like your distribution of skills is good at all. Although you’re suited to close-range combat in real life, your technique development in the game is interesting but it’s not a good idea to spend so many points on the strength stat. The priority here should be on evasion and technique—”

And like that, Xenovia continued to diss my gameplay. …You know, you’re also a power-type in real life, but you really like to pick on the fine details in games! …Anyway, I left the game to the Church Trio. And so, I made my way over to the Vali team late that night.

Kuroka, Le Fay and I teleported to a ridiculously large training space. Waiting for us there were — Vali, Bikou and two people whom I hadn’t met before. They were both dressed in baggy and loose-fitting clothes that were reminiscent of ancient Chinese outfits – jikitetsu, monk-like robes.

One of them was a beautiful girl who looked like she was in middle school! Her fluffy vermillion hair was a defining characteristic…though she also wore a necklace with many small skulls strung on it. Hmm, it seemed like poor taste.

The other one — wasn't human! With a humanoid but bulky body and a pig-like head, he was a beast man. They were two indescribably unique strangers to me. So, they were the supposed newcomers? Hmm, even though it was the first time that we had met, why did it somehow feel as though we had encountered each other before? Speaking of which, when they were together with Bikou…it looked like…. No, because one of them was a girl, I couldn't be certain because the mental image that I had conjured up was so different…. However, Bikou — with Sun Wukong and the pig-headed beast man together, I couldn't help but think of that. Noticing my intense gaze on the three people who were all lined up, Bikou raised his hand and greeted us.

"Yo, Sekiryuutei. I see you decided to come?"

I walked up and asked Bikou,

"So, these are your new members? These two?"

Bikou scratched his cheek as he replied,

"…Yeah, that's the deal. That first-generation old man of mine gave me these troublesome ones to look after…. …Let's see, that pig is the current [Zhu Bajie] and that girl is the current [Sha Wujing]."

—!

I understood as soon as Bikou put it into words! Yes, exactly!

"Seriously!? Zhu Bajie and Sha Wujing!?"

Once again, I looked at them — the pig, Zhu Bajie-san and the beautiful girl that was Sha Wujing! Yep, definitely! If Bikou was together with a pig-like person, then one couldn't help but think of the [Journey to the West] tale! …On the other hand, Sha Wujing not being a kappa seemed a bit odd…. Huh? Wasn't Sha Wujing from Journey to the West a kappa? No no, I think someone once told me

that it wasn't true…? So much had happened lately that I occasionally forgot about some things…. Bikou laughed as he continued,

"Well, you have to add 'current generation' on though. They've only recently acquired those names."

Still, it was amazing! It was incredible enough to encounter Sun Wukong, but meeting Zhu Bajie and Sha Wujing made it even more unbelievable, despite being the 'current generation'! Ah, being able to meet these two today was already a sufficient and satisfying reward. Moreover, these two were the two new members of the Vali team? The fact that the first-generation Sun Wukong old man introduced them was also intriguing. With all that in mind, my interest had been piqued. I couldn't help but alternate my gaze between Zhu Bajie and Sha Wujing. Putting Zhu Bajie-san aside, Sha Wujing seemed somewhat shy because of my constant gaze. So cute! Returning my gaze, Zhu Bajie-san mockingly said of himself,

"Yeah yeah, I'm a pig. Ah yes, a pig. A rascal pig who can do nothing but snort and squeal."

"N-No, that's not…"

His physical appearance was like that because he was a pig Youkai, and I didn't recall saying anything about it…was it wrong of me to look at him? Bikou made a wry smile as he said,

"Ah, the current generation [Zhu Bajie] is super gloomy and negative so don't mind him."

In response to Bikou's words, Zhu Bajie-san simply shrugged.

"Heh, sorry for being a negative pig. After all, I'm a pig. A rascal pig."

—However, Zhu Bajie-san then directed his gaze at Kuroka.

“By the way, Nekomata onee-san. There’s something I’d like to ask of you.”

“What is it nya?”

While Kuroka tilted her head, Zhu Bajie-san blatantly laid out his request.

“Can you hit me? Also, when you hit me, can you say ‘Did you really want my cat punch that badly!? You rascal pig!’? I guess not, right? Ah, sorry for troubling you.”

What did that guy just say!? All of a sudden, he just started saying some really perverted stuff!? Stuff about getting beaten and verbally abused! Faced with such a request out of the blue, even Kuroka’s expression blanked out in surprise.

“…Wait, Bikou. Is this pig-san a pervert?”

Upon hearing Kuroka’s question, Bikou heaved a deep sigh.

“Yeah, he’s a negative and genuine masochist. He feels joy and excitement when a beautiful girl abuses him and calls him a ‘rascal pig’.”

“Oh yes, the way you said ‘pig-san’ just then was pretty good. I could do with some of that. It even made me want to let out a squeal.”

…Holy shit, this pig-san. He said that with a totally serious expression! He’s way too much trouble! Even among the perverts that I had seen, he was with the upper echelons of them! Given that it had only been a few minutes since we met, there was surely something wrong with his head, right!? …Well, whatever. Leaving pig-san aside for now, the other one was — the beautiful girl, Sha Wujing-chan.

"…U-Umm, it's nice to meet you, I'm the current [Sha Wujing]. You might be a bit surprised that I'm a girl…but, I intend to work hard to live up to my name."

The beautiful Sha Wujing-chan gave a proper self-introduction! Mmm, as expected, her skin was fair, and she was cute as well! That silky vermillion hair looked great on her as well! Noticing my gaze, Bikou shared some additional information.

"…By the way, the current [Sha Wujing]-chan is…just as you see, a JC[1] — middle school girl.

"JC! Oh, a middle school girl huh!"

That was somewhat surprising, but she did seem to be around that age based on her appearance. Though it was somewhat premature to judge a Youkai by their appearance…she looked quite alright. Wait, a JC? Did that mean she attended middle school? It was possible that she was concealing her true identity. We hid the fact that we were Devils and went about an ordinary school life, so since she looked just like a human girl, that was certainly a possibility. But for some reason, compared to my mental image of Sha Wujing, she…. Noticing the odd expression I made as I looked at her, Sha Wujing-chan asked,

"U-Umm, are you okay? You're looking at me a bit strangely…"

"…I-It's nothing, it's just that the Sha Wujing in my mind always seemed like a kappa, that's all…"

Upon hearing that word, Sha Wujing-chan abruptly teared up as she retorted back!

"I-I'm not a kappa! That's just the image that the Japanese people conjured up without permission! The original Sha Wujing was a river-

based Yousen — a Youkai sage! Not a Youkai with an amphibian head!”

With quick pace, she voiced her dissatisfaction at my previous judgement of her! The way that she pouted when angry was cute. Bikou nodded in agreement with Sha Wujing-chan.

“That’s how it is. Sha Wujing wasn’t a kappa, but a Youkai sage. Sha Wujing being a kappa is a modified setting that made it easier for the Japanese people to understand.”

…Yes, I had heard about that kind of thing. That was what I had just forgotten. Bikou — Sun Wukong had explained that to me the first time we met. Ah, but the thing is, I actually met a real kappa, so that might’ve messed with my memories…. I’d met all sorts of strange individuals, perverts, bizarre humans and supernatural beings, which is why this misunderstanding occurred. All of this happened in only my first year of being a Devil as well…. After listening to Bikou’s explanation, JC Sha Wujing-chan nodded as well.

“Yes, that’s exactly right! I’m not a kappa!”

Youkai sage Sha Wujing-chan! I got it, I’ll remember that you’re a JC!

“Well, I’m a pig in both the original and the Japanese version. After all, I’m just a rascal pig…”

Just like that, Zhu Bajie-san continued to ridicule himself…. Bikou then elaborated on Sha Wujing-chan’s circumstances to me,

“…Take care alright. The Sha Wujing clan are pretty sensitive when it comes to being called [kappa]. They seem especially irritated when they’re described as that by Japanese people.”

I see, it was something that I definitely had to keep in mind…. In any case, after listening to both of their explanations, I asked anew,

“So, what did you need my help with in the first place?”

Indeed, the very reason that I was here. Why was my assistance needed for the two people who stood before me? Moreover, me. Was there a reason why it couldn’t have been anyone else? Bikou put his hands together in a pleading pose as he said,

“Well, how should I put this…please help me.”

What did he want me to do with the perverted masochist Zhu Bajie and JC Sha Wujing-chan…?

“Well, just tell me the details for starters.”

“To be honest—”

Bikou began to explain. It seemed that the first-generation Sun Wukong had spoken about something rather important a few days ago. It was…unbelievable! It was a request from Xuanzang Sanzang. Originally, the three disciples were the Great Victorious Fighting Buddha – Sun Wukong, Cleaner of the Altars — Zhu Bajie, and Golden-bodied Arhat — Sha Wujing. The request was to bring them back together. Faced with the first request from their master in a long time, the first-generation old men were delighted, but also gave consideration to the matter.

—Would it not be better for our descendants to carry out this wish? Moreover, if the three of them worked together, it would improve relations between the clans and be splendid if they could produce good results.

The three disciples of Xuanzang Sanzang who came to this conclusion thus gave an order to those given their name (or possibly given their name).

—The three of you are to fulfil Xuanzang Sanzang-sama’s wish.

With that reasoning in mind, the first-generation Sun Wukong old man sent the current [Zhu Bajie] and [Sha Wujing] who had recently been entrusted with those names to the Vali team that Bikou belonged to. Training was an aspect to fulfilling that wish, and there was an implication that Team [DxD] would help to train the Journey to the West group a little. …What surprised me the most was the valuation of Bikou by the first generation. Even though he hadn’t yet been entrusted with his ancestral name, did they group him with the current [Zhu Bajie] and [Sha Wujing] as a way of expressing their expectation of him becoming [Sun Wukong] in the future? Well, it

was impossible for me to understand the minds of the first-generation old men who had become akin to gods and buddhas after a long journey.

"…I see, so it was a request made by Xuanzang Sanzang-sama…that got passed on through the first-generation Sun Wukong old man."

I re-iterated to express my understanding following Bikou's explanation. Bikou then heaved a deep sigh as he continued,

"…Ah, if it was only a request from the old man, I would've been able to turn him down, but obviously when it involves any of the other great disciples, I've gotta listen…. If I declined the request of all three disciples…I'd definitely be killed!"

Oh, it certainly seemed to be the case given that his face turned pale as he clutched his head. He was seriously so afraid of them that he was trembling on the spot.

"…Are the first-generation Sun Wukong, Zhu Bajie and Sha Wujing really such bad news?"

I asked Vali out of curiosity. If anyone was familiar with abnormal strength, it was this guy.

"Hypothetically, it might be possible to take them on if the entirety of Team [DxD] stood against them. When the three disciples of Tripitaka Master Xuanzang Sanzang are together, they're pretty much monsters. That's why Bikou couldn't get out of it on his own this time."

Vali asserted. …I see, so even Bikou couldn't escape from them. Even though Bikou had constantly been terrified and avoidant of his first-generation ancestor, he was completely helpless against all three disciples of Xuanzang Sanzang.

"So, why'd you ask me to come here?"

I asked to probe about their objective. I certainly wanted to understand what I was getting involved in before I got my hands dirty. If it was too far beyond my expectations, then I'd have to decline. Bikou made an emotional appeal,

"Isn't the Sekiryuutei the one who's resolved many situations like this? You've gotten through everything from difficult requests to perverted opponents, right? If you can help take care of these guys with me and Vali, then that'll take care of this mission, you know? If we don't manage to clear this mission, I'm not going to have a future! But, it's just a bit unsettling to be teamed up with this perverted rascal pig and a JC. That's why I need help!"

He put his hands together and pleaded again. …I didn't like the idea of cooperating with this mischievous guy, but it wasn't his problem alone. Moreover, it also seemed like it'd be a good experience to get to know those associated with the famous [Journey to the West].

"Hmm, what are you going to do, Vali?"

To start off, I asked the team's leader for his perspective.

"Well, when it's a request from Tripitaka Master Xuanzang Sanzang, I can't just ignore it. It's a pain, but I have to take care of it. I'll be supporting Bikou and the others this time as well."

Ah yes, I had heard that Xuanzang Sanzang offered some counselling to Albion. …Even though Ddraig had recovered now, I'd want to consult Xuanzang Sanzang if something happened next time as well. It seemed like Xuanzang Sanzang was a counsellor for the Two Heavenly Dragons. Kuroka suddenly approached and whispered to me,

(…That may be the case, but there's also the fact that the first-generation oldies will introduce Prince Nezha to Vali once this is all

done. That prince is strong, you know? That's why Vali is delighted about this on the inside.)

Ah, so that was the reason. For someone like him who enjoyed being able to fight against formidable opponents, the introduction of someone strong to him was probably the best bargaining chip out there. I crossed my arms and tilted my head as I mused over it. Now, what should I do? This was a request to support the mission of the Journey to the West team — to help Bikou. I contemplated whether to accept or decline. While I thought over it, Bikou came over to me.

(…Can't you help us out here? In return, I could help give you and Kuroka some alone time together, you know?)

—!

Bikou suddenly blurted out something like that!

(W-What do you mean…?)

I gulped in anticipation as Bikou continued with an indecent look and tone in his voice.

(Do I have to spell it out? You got a special erotic room from Heaven, right? You can do whatever you want with Kuroka until morning without anyone getting in the way, right? Knowing her, won't she get wild with love and passion once she's in that room with you?)

Where did he get that information from!? No, this guy probably knew all of that already! To a degree, a lot of our information had somehow been leaked or overheard! But just as he said…if Kuroka and I were alone in that room, then—.

[Ufufu, doesn't it look like no one will be disturbing us? Isn't there only one thing to do when a man and a woman are alone in a room like this? Let's – make – babies – nyan ♪]

I began to daydream about Kuroka taking off her kimono as she said such things in a sensual voice!

(…T-That may certainly be the case. But the thing is, surprisingly, there's almost no chance of being alone with a girl, you know? It always ends with another one of the girls watching or finding out.)

Indeed, it was almost impossible to get a chance to be alone with any one girl in particular! After all, there were so many of them! Maybe that was why I could never be alone with any of them! Because I always ran into the various girls who lived with me, it was difficult to coordinate alone time with any one of them! Perhaps having anticipated such an issue, Bikou then said,

(Exactly! I can transform myself into Former Governor Azazel or someone else and fool them until morning, while you have all the fun you want in the meantime!)

I seeee! This guy could transform himself! Moreover, he was also a senjutsu user! He could probably fool Rias and the others! And using that opportunity, I'd be alone with Kuroka in that room until morning! Splendid! What a wonderful idea! I rubbed the bottom of my nose with a finger as I extended my other hand out towards Bikou.

"Hehe, I totally understand, Bikou. Well, I can't say no to a request from a rival team."

"Yeah yeah, as I expected, the great Sekiryuutei totally gets it!"

The two of us exchanged a passionate handshake! And so, as the Two Heavenly Dragons, Vali and I began to look after the Journey to the West team.

The first mission from Xuanzang Sanzang.

Late that night, Vali, the three members of the Journey to the West team, and I lined up in front of a large retail electronics store. A vast number of people formed a line under the cold sky even though it was late at night. Mission number one was to get a Monster Watch[2]! ……Our first request from Xuanzang Sanzang was to obtain a toy! The game known as [Monster Watch] was currently popular among children in Japan. Originating from the game, various anime, manga, toys and other merchandise of these monsters had become a huge hit. By the way, the House of Gremory which manages the [Oppai Dragon] franchise in the Underworld had been imitating it and paying close attention to its strategy. And as the [Oppai Dragon], I was lining up all night at this electronics shop for a [Monster Watch] toy which was set to go on sale at ten o'clock tomorrow morning. For whatever reason in case one wasn't enough, five of us lined up in order to secure multiple of them. That was when the truth was revealed. Since he was not particularly human-looking, Zhu Bajie used a transformation technique to take on the form of a normal human. Hence, he looked just like a young and overweight man.

"…So Xuanzang Sanzang likes toys huh."

I said, to which Vali replied,

"I think it's for the children that he knows."

Ah, so that's how it was. So [Monster Watch] was popular over there was well.

"Even so, we have to be patient and line up here."

Bikou seemed unusually motivated. Perhaps due to being given a request that he couldn't refuse, he seemed more motivated than I had ever seen him. —But, upon noticing an oddity among those of us who were lining up, Bikou suddenly became infuriated.

“Hey, where’s Wujing!?”

Indeed, Sha Wujing-chan was missing today.

“She told us that she wouldn’t be coming because she has club activities early in the morning.”

Vali replied, having been in contact with her. It was because she was a JC…morning club activities were important after all. Because of that, Bikou began to panic.

“No no, aren’t Sha Wujing’s obligations more important than club activities!? Geez, that’s why the young Youkai are no damn good these days!”

Believing that all three of them had to be involved in this task, Bikou seemed rather serious about the matter. Though, I did think that he was probably the worst of them all. However, I had come here for support, so I was somewhat prepared. I introduced the person standing behind me who was wearing a long hood to Bikou. In fact, this hooded person was someone that I had prepared for my supporting role this time — a helper.

“This is today’s supporting helper—”

The man beneath the hood made a cold smile.

“I am Salamander Tomita. —I quite enjoy being a kappa.”

It was the kappa, Salamander Tomita-san. A former rapper, he was a rather odd kappa who had currently succeeded his family’s cucumber farm. He was a kappa that Koneko-chan looked up to, and he also happened to be a monster of the Grigori. I called him up because I knew that Sha Wujing-chan wouldn’t be able to make it this time.

“Huh! Salamander Tomita! That’s a kappa with a name that I’ve heard of.”

Oh, even Vali knew who he was…. This cucumber farmer who was a rapper and a kappa was quite the well-known existence then…. Hey Vali, don’t just start eating cup ramen while you’re standing in line. …It looks delicious though. However, Bikou was so astonished by this that his eyeballs seemed like they were about to pop out of their sockets, until he finally made an angry outburst,

“Hey come on! Being a kappa doesn’t mean anything! Go back to your river!”

However, Salamander Tomita-san quietly and gently produced — a single cucumber which he presented to Bikou.

“Just calm down. How about one? When you’re outside on a winter night, a cucumber is nice, isn’t it?”

Bikou took the cucumber as he complained “I don’t like them!”, though we ignored him for now. The most important thing was whether we’d be able to get the toy tomorrow. Meanwhile, Zhu Bajie-san said to one of the ladies standing in line beside him,

“Madam, can you beat me? If you can, I’d really appreciate it if you could call me a rascal pig while you slap my rear end, you know? If a pig like me is going to endure through this cold, I’m going to need that kind of encouragement for my soul.”

Because his perverted conduct seemed like it would become a nuisance to others, I gave him a smack! And so, for the sake of competing for this toy, we continued until around noon. We somehow managed to get our item!

The second mission was—.

We were at a temple in a remote area of China. Because the temple was situated at the peak of a tall mountain, we had to climb steep paths and stairs that seemed to last forever in order to get there. It was a distance that would make an ordinary person's expression turn pale just by looking at it. I was used to this kind of training, and Vali treated it like nothing from the beginning, so the two of us quietly made our way up….

"Zehaa zehaa…why…are you guys…going up…so calmly…!?"

Behind us, Bikou struggled to catch his breath as he dragged his feet along. …Oh, Bikou had a surprising lack of stamina. JC Sha Wujing-chan looked a little worse for wear, but she commented,

"This seems like good exercise."

And she looked much more relaxed than Bikou was. However, Sha Wujing-chan made a displeased frown as she looked at those of us who were at the front of the pack.

"Phew, China's mountains are nice as well. It feels like the kind of place where you'd come up with a nice melody, Koneko-chan."

Gazing out at the mountain scenery — was the kappa, Salamander Tomita-san. Indeed, I had no idea why he had followed us all the way here! Thus, since Sha Wujing-chan was often mistaken for a kappa, she pouted and remained in a bad mood. Ooh, it was definitely a cute reaction that was fitting for a middle school girl. However, at present — Bikou was the most displeased. It wasn't because he was tired either.

"Damn bastard! That rascal pig…!"

Bikou was angry at Zhu Bajie-san, and he had reason to be so. I was on this journey together with Vali, Salamander Tomita-san, Bikou, the beautiful JC Sha Wujing-chan and — a pig!

“Oink—”

Following our line up was — a pig. Indeed, just a pig!

“Why is it a pig!? What the heck is Zhu Bajie doing!?”

Bikou was infuriated by the presence of a pig on the stairs. Having been contacted in advance, Vali said,

“Apparently, he ‘strained his roast area, so needs rest’.”

Roast, or perhaps better known as loin — in other words, he had strained the dorsal part of his shoulders to his hips.

“That rascal pig, I’m going to roast him! Besides, why is his substitute just an ordinary pig!?”

Bikou climbed up the stairs in a fit of anger. After Vali and I discussed the matter of being short of members, we came to the conclusion that we had no choice but to prepare a pig. We didn’t have much time…so we had no choice but this pig. But that masochist Zhu Bajie seriously isn’t motivated! He must’ve known about the existence of these steps! He didn’t come because he couldn’t be bothered with them! However, even though Bikou was never motivated, he continued climbing up the stairs without a complaint. …Surely, it meant those three disciples were truly terrifying….

It took us more than half a day to reach the summit, and from the respected monk who lived in that temple — we received several peaches. The peaches had a flat shape. They were a variety known as Saturn peaches, and they had long been treated as a fruit of immortality in China. Naturally, what we received weren’t just ordinary Saturn peaches which could be found in the human world,

but peaches which possessed special properties. Well, rather than being a fruit of immortality according to its tale, it seemed like it was an ingredient for medicine that a sage would prepare. And it was what Xuanzang Sanzang wanted.

“Now then, please give this peach to Candana-punya Buddha-sama on my behalf.”

The monk said as he gave us a peach. Candana-punya Buddha — in other words, the Tripitaka Master Xuanzang Sanzang. Ah, and so, our second mission concluded. As I leaned back, I caught sight of Vali opening up a bento box in a corner of the temple! In the cute-looking bento box was a character-themed meal made up of a variety of colourful ingredients. The character-themed meal which seemed to imitate Vali’s face had the words ‘Va-kun’ written with seaweed.

“You’ve got a character-themed bento, huh. Who made it?”

I asked, and Vali ate as he replied,

“When I told a female magician I know that I’d be climbing a mountain to a temple at the request of the Tripitaka Master Xuanzang Sanzang today, she gave this to me.”

Ohoh, a female magician that he was acquainted with! It didn’t seem like it was Le Fay…. Having become interested, I listened as Vali continued,

“…For a time, she looked after me. She’s like an older sister.”

Huh, I didn’t know a person like that existed! Mmhmm, I was beginning to see more of a different side to him just through our interactions outside of battle, and it was rather enjoyable. I was able to obtain all sorts of information that I had never encountered before. Va-kun, huh. Well, perhaps I could try and find out more about it next time?

“Seriously!?”

—Behind us, Bikou exclaimed in surprise. With his focus directed to us, the monk approached me and Vali and then said,

“This is a good opportunity. I shall tell you about it as well. What I’m about to tell you is also recorded in <<Journey to the West>>. It’s about when the first-generation Sun Wukong stole peaches from Xi Wangmu-sama’s Saturn peach banquet. So—”

And so, a lengthy story began—.

Having completed our mission at the top of the mountain, our group proceeded to the location of the final task.

“Oryaaaaaaaaaaaaa!”

In the wilderness of the mountains, Bikou wielded his Ruyi Jingu Bang against a Youkai opponent.

“Hiya!”

The JC Sha Wujing-chan also manipulated a powerful water current at her hands to blow several Youkai opponents away at once.

“Ze.”

A rather unmotivated Zhu Bajie (who joined us just earlier) used a peculiar weapon with nine teeth that was reminiscent of a rake to swiftly defeat the Youkai. Indeed, the third mission was unexpectedly simple because the remote areas of China — which were home to sages also had rampaging Youkai bandits, so it was necessary to put them down. Vali and I supported them from the backline. The main force was the three members of the Journey to the West team. We

simply blew away the Youkai that tried to escape. We also extinguished the stray sparks that made their way over to our side. Well, after listening to that endless <<Journey to the West>> story from the monk, it was only natural that we wanted to move about and get some physical activity. That was why this final mission was rather fitting for us.

“Toryaaaaa!”

“Buhi—”

For some reason, the kappa Salamander Tomita-san also participated in the battle, while the pig chewed on some grass in a corner of the battlefield…so, just ignore that part!

“Sha Wujing, Zhu Bajie! Let’s go!”

“Alright—”

“Yes!”

At some point, Zhu Bajie-san and Sha Wujing-chan suddenly began to unleash coordinated attacks on Bikou’s signal. For some reason or other, it felt as though this was the fate of Journey to the West.

“Leave it to me!”

“Buhi—”

The sounds of a kappa and a pig were occasionally mixed in with them, but…well, don’t worry about it! As I watched the Journey to the West team dispatch the Youkai bandits, I suddenly asked Vali,

“So, what do you think about making them your future team members?”

Vali looked on at the boisterous and joyful squad of three as he smiled and said,

“That’s a question for the white dragon. …Well, I don’t think it’ll get boring.”

Although a sardonic smile marked his expression, his words felt genuine. He was right though; they didn’t seem like team members who’d be boring to stick around. With that, the three missions that had been imposed on them by the first-generation old men had all been successfully completed—. Now, all that was left — was a debaucherous night of fun with Kuroka until morning! I made a salacious smile as I fantasised about such things.

On the next weekend.

“Whaaaaaaaaaattttt!? You can’t fulfill your promise with me!?”

I yelled in exasperation when I was contacted by Bikou via a communication magic circle. Although Bikou continually said ‘sorry’, he only offered a mild apology and didn’t seem genuine about it at all!

[Yeah…how should I phrase this? It’s nice that we cleared all those missions, but afterwards, Zhu Bajie and Sha Wujing became associate members of the Vali team because of the old man’s suggestion. So, we’ve gotta take care of them entirely now. What’s more, we’re looking after that piglet called ‘Chashu’[3] as well, so we’ve seriously got no free time.]

I-I-I didn’t hear a thing about any of that!? This guy told me that he’d disguise himself as Azazel-sensei or whoever to distract Rias and the others! In the meantime, I’d jump into that erotic room with Kuroka and let loose until morning! Speaking of which, they decided to keep that pig? That in itself was a good thing, but they named it ‘Chashu’!

…Well, as long as it didn't end up being sacrificed for Vali's ramen research….

[That's why. I told Kuroka's little sister about the situation, so she'll come up with something! See ya!]

With those words, Bikou cut the connection!

"Hey! Bikou! Hey! Damn, that bastard…!"

Amidst my furore…I finally understood Bikou's last words! …Told…Kuroka's little sister…about the situation…? I felt immense pressure directed at me from behind. As I gingerly turned around — Koneko-sama stood there shrouded in touki! She stared straight at me with narrowed eyes!

"…Trying to do something like that in secret from everyone…you're the worst, Ise-senpai!"

"Noooooooo! I'm sooorrrrry!"

Koneko-chan's educational guidance for me needed no words—. Damn it! Bloody Bikou! The next time I see him…I'll absolutely make him hold up his end of the bargain! I firmly decided that to myself.

Translator's Notes and References

↑ JC: shortening of the Japanese pronunciation joshichuugakusei, which literally means middle school girl.

↑ A reference to the media franchise known as Yo-kai Watch.

↑ Chashu: Braised pork, generally from a fattier cut such as the belly.

Salamander Tomita

This is an event which occurred just after the preliminary stage of the International Rating Game Tournament [Azazel Cup] had concluded. All members of the [Hakuryuukou of the Morning Star] team had gathered around their leader, Vali. Once everyone was present, Vali announced,

“This is our new team member…or perhaps it would be better to call them a reserve member who has now joined our team.”

The person that Vali introduced as such was—

“I’m Salamander Tomita. I’m a kappa. Nice to meet you.”

It was the rapper kappa Salamander Tomita. Because some members of the Vali team had met this kappa before due to a certain incident, they were rather startled. Bikou said,

“Are you serious, Vali!? T-This kappa is…?”

“Yeah, Tomita-shi was recently promoted to [kappa among kappa] and [Ultimate-Class Kappa]. In terms of combat strength, he’s impeccable.”

“What the heck is an Ultimate-Class Kappa…?”

Bikou’s eyes trembled, but Kuroka said in a low voice,

“There aren’t many kappa among kappa. I’ve heard that they’re worth a hundred million cucumbers.”

“You’ve completely lost me! Besides, I’ve heard that they belong to the Grigori, so what’s up with this kappa!?”

Bikou comically clutched his head.

“Ah! That’s it!”

As if she had suddenly struck upon an idea, Kuroka urged Bikou, Zhu Bajie and Salamander Tomita to stand side by side. With fascination and interest, Kuroka looked at the three people who stood in a line and said,

"…A monkey Youkai, a pig Youkai and a kappa. As a Japanese Youkai, this feels way more familiar to me nyan."

In response, the JC current generation Sha Wujing with silky vermillion hair puffed out her cheeks in a moody manner.

"K-Kuroka-san! Did you just say that those three have more likeness to Journey to the West!?"

Being of the age when she loathed being mistaken for a kappa, Sha Wujing pouted as she became enraged. Kuroka scratched her cheek as she responded,

"Well, it's more famous in Japan like this."

"Youkai sage! [Sha Wujing] is a Youkai sage!"

"That aside, we've got way too many Youkai in this team…. We've even got a real pig yo."

Bikou mumbled as he heaved a sigh. Once he felt that his team members had begun to interact a bit more positively, Vali nodded and said,

"In any case, Salamander Tomita-shi will be helping us out in case of any emergencies."

After saying so and glancing over the members of his team, Vali suddenly recalled something that Lavinia Reni had once said.

—Among Va-kun's friends, Kuroka-san is like Natsume, Bikou-kun is like Shark, and Fenrir-chan is like Jin-chan…in a way, it's a bit like the [Slash Dog] team.

When she initially said that to him, he'd immediately asserted 'that's not true at all'—.

"Well, I can't say that there was zero influence."

That was how he currently felt about it—.

Life.5 Flower Arrangement of the Princesses

I——Kiba Yuuto, was following my master, Rias-neesan. who came to a cafe in the Underworld. There we rented one of the conference rooms provided and there a secret reunion was happening.

The other party was Rias-neesan's childhood friend Sona Sitri: the former Kaichou of the student council. Similarly from the same generation, the next family head of the Archduke Agares family, Seekvaira Agares, was also here.

Including Rias-neesan, these three girls were the next family heads of noble Devil families.

Since the anti-terrorist team 『D×D』 was established, this could be called a regular social gathering. The socialisation of High-Class Devils and ones who were going to be the next family heads is valuable.

It has the important meaning of strengthening the relations with the Sitri household and Archduke Agares household too.

.....Well, although they would just talk about things that ojou-samas of their age would talk about from beginning to end. Things like romance, fashion and other various similar subjects.

But I think that this is a good thing that the next family heads of the same age can gather around and talk about their worries.

For the time being, it was a gathering of High-Class Devil princesses, but as it was taught from long ago, one should bring a 『Knight』 from your peerage together.

Other than me, a 『Knight』 from the Sitri and Agares peerages were here too. From Sitri's side is Meguri Tomoe-san and from

Agares' side is a woman with long chestnut-coloured hair dressed in a suit, who seemed to be in her early twenties.

I heard that this female Agares Knight's name is Bafeel Furcas-san, and that she is the little sister of the『Knight』from Sairaorg Bael-san's peerage; Beluga Furcas-san. (The person riding the [Pale Horse], who I fought against).

A 『Knight』has this custom of following their masters. Unexpectedly, after the 『Queen』, we are the busiest. Although I feel that this is an honour.

Then, about the talk with these princesses, they were exchanging information about the postwar dealings of the Evil Dragon's War and after finishing this kind of stiff talk to some extent, they started talking about some private things.

Rias-neesan said her worries to those two.

Sona ex-Kaichou..... Or rather, Sona-senpai asked back about the worries that Rias-neesan had.

"Bridal training.....?"

Rias-neesan nodded.

"Yes, when I was talking with Ise's Okaa-sama, she mentioned the time when she did her bridal training, so I started pondering about various things. It seems like in Japan, since long ago, there are many cases where someone in bride training learns about flower arrangement or tea ceremony, so I was thinking about learning one of them".

The relationship between Ise-kun and Rias-neesan is something already recognized by the surroundings, Rias-neesan too is already looking at the future to some extent.

That's why it’s probably natural for her to be worried about bride training.

Since she's going to make a Japanese man her husband, she's thinking of becoming a wife who has nothing to feel ashamed about the knowledge and art of his place.

While raising her glasses, Seekvaira-san asked back.

"Mobility? Operation? What about Japanese mechanical engineering ? Robots in bride training?"

She probably misheard, Flower arrangement = Mobility, Tea ceremony = Operation.

She is profoundly knowledgeable about Mecha animes..... no, seeing the perspective of this next family head of Agares, who is a little too passionate about it, I think that she's more used to hearing about mobility and operation than flower arrangement and tea ceremony.

"It's different, Seekvaira. She is talking about flowers and tea".

——Sona-senpai taught her.

"Ah, about flowers and tea, is it?..... Surely I thought it was about....."

Seekvaira-san was feeling a little regret.

Hearing Rias-neesan concern, Sona-senpai replied after drinking tea.

"If it is about Japanese bride training, I heard quite a lot about it. Why don't you try learning from Akeno? Maybe she learned it indirectly?"

As Sona-senpai said, Akeno-san more or less knows about the traditional arts and customs of Japan. Akeno-san who lives in the Hyoudou Residence sometimes is responsible for decorating

everywhere in the house with flower vases with vibrant and colourful flowers.

Rias-neesan shook her head.

"She said that because she doesn't have a particular style of it and just learned by imitation, it would be better if I learned from a real school".

Certainly, if it is Akeno-san, she would reply like that thinking for Rias-neesan. She probably judged that it would be better for Rias-neesan, who is the next head of the Gremory family to learn from a pro teacher than from a friend who has a little knowledge about it.

Sona-senpai was quietly pondering while putting her hand on her chin.

"I see.....Should I attend it too?"

——And she said something like this.

As expected, as a woman and as the next family head of the Sitri household, her interest in the thing called marriage is high.

"Ara, Sona is interested in bride training too?"

Sona-senpai nodded at Rias-neesan's question.

"Yes, since I live in Japan, I have to properly experience and understand its culture. That's why It would be better to learn from a proper school".

Seekvaira-san, the next family head of Agares household and a High-Class Devil woman like them, silently raised her hand too.

"If it is like that, I'll experience it too. Lately, I shut myself in my research room making pla-models....."

Saying that until there, Seekvaira-san cleared her throat and corrected herself.

"Because lately, I shut myself in my room researching about something, by doing a cultural exchange like bride training, I'll be having a good experience".

After hearing the opinion of the two of them, Rias-neesan said.

"If that's the case, the three of us should start by learning..... flower arrangement?"

Sona-senpai and Seekvaira-san nodded. Looks like the two of them have the same opinion as Rias-neesan.

In this way, these three High-Class Devil princesses-sama of the same generation are going to learn a part of bride training, flower arrangement.

Looking at each other, we『Knights』, came to the mutual understanding that [Looks like it'll be something like this].

On a holiday many days after the end of the reunion——

As an extension of the regular social meeting for those three princesses, we the『Knights』would accompany them in the bride training too, or rather—— 『Flower Arrangement Experience Classroom』.

And through Sona-senpai’s subscription, we joined a classroom about the Japanese art of flower arrangement.

Rias-neesan and Sona-senpai invited the girls from their respective peerages, but [The socialisation for those who are on the top should be done only by those who are on the top. If there's another opportunity, I want you to invite me.]

Our comrades thought that the socialization between ladies was something important, so they declined.

Of course.....we couldn't invite Ise-kun. Because it would be a little weird if we brought the future husband of one of the girls doing bride training.

In this way, I'm the only one joining from the Gremory's side. I'm a 『Knight』 and it's the socialisation of princesses. It's my duty to accompany them.

Rias-neesan and everyone were dressed in kimonos. The thing called flower arrangement and the thing called the bride training is something that starts with the looks. Because the three of them have their origin in the upper class, they were elegantly dressed in kimonos, it really suited them.

The female『Knights』 from the Sitri and Agares were following their masters in kimonos too.

For the time being, as it would be awkward with me being the only man, I once again used that gender-swapping gun to become a woman.

.....I didn't plan to use it anymore, but..... however, this is an important role as a 『Knight』 .....

And because it's the first time I'm wearing a kimono, so I'm not used to it, I feel like I'm going to fall.

Seeing my appearance in kimono, the 『Knight』 of Sitri, Meguri-san instantly became happy and took her smartphone out and asked if she could take a photo.

"Kiba-kun, I'll take one. I have to send this to Tsubaki-san later.....!"

Despite this kind of thing, we finally knocked on the gate for the flower arrangement school. On the signboard [Blast Style Head Temple] was skillfully written with thick letters.

The main gate had a splendid style. We let the other side know that we came through a doorbell camera.

From the interior of the gate with double doors, a woman who we thought to be a disciple, opened it. Ahead of the gate, a stone pavement stretched until the front door.

While walking through the stone pavement, Rias-neesan asked Sona-senpai.

"This school of flower arrangement has a tradition?"

"Yes, it's famous in the field of not making distinction if the other person is Human or Devil, as long as you have the will to learn, they will teach you, or so I heard".

.....Ah, so they teach even Devils. Somehow, I couldn't help but feel a bad presentiment. This kind of sensation is generally right.....

While I was feeling a little anxious, the disciple-san opened the front door.

The one who was waiting inside was——a middle-aged woman dressed in a kimono. However, a vase of flowers was placed on her head! A vase of flowers with vibrantly coloured and beautiful flowers was placed on her head!

The middle-aged woman with a vase of flowers on her head leisurely bowed.

"Be welcome to my Blast style. It's written with [Burst] from explosion and [Flash] from flash of light and read as Blast. I'm the

present head of the family and head of the school, my name is, Bakusan Umeko".

"Nice to meet you, we'll be under your care today".

Rias-neesan and her group bowed their head, exchanging greetings.

.....Even when she lowered her head, the vase didn't fall. Water didn't spill too..... I was curious about how this vase was created.....

Or rather, she called it Blast style..... does this mean that it is not Japanese?

It's not the explosive style, right? This is a school I've never heard about. If they even receive Devils, does this mean that they probably have a big influence behind the scenes.....how should I explain this?

But, my anxiety is only increasing.....!

While confirming our appearances, the eyes of the head of the school became sharp.

"Before starting the style of my school, there's a test..... to be honest, the test already started".

——! A test? Moreover, it already started.....?

We were confused, so Rias-neesan asked.

"A-a test.....? What kind?"

The school head hid her mouth with her hand while laughing [Ohohohoho], however, suddenly she released a pressure filled with intensity——, no, she was releasing aura from all over her body!

Aura is not something that a normal person should be able to release..... but, the school head is covered in a dense Ki that one wouldn't think she was a teacher of flower arrangement!

The school head said.

"——You need to show me your aura. In my style, somehow or other, the aura is something absolutely essential, So I need you guys to show me your aura!"

——! T-to think we would receive a test in front of the door of the flower arrangement classroom, moreover, she said to show our auras!

With this kind of situation, us three 『Knights』 could only be confused, but the three princesses——.

"Understood, I just need to show my aura, right?"

Rias-neesan smiled suggestively and gave glances of confirmation to Sona-senpai and Seekvaira-san.

[[[Ha!]]]

These three high-class Devil women, who will be the next family head of their families, released aura from their bodies at the same time!

The front door was broken and the shoe shelf was smashed!

Seeing the aura released by Rias-neesan and the others, the school head became wild with joy.

"——! .....Beautiful..... to start training my style, there's this big wall that needs to be surpassed, if one is able to release or not his aura, but looks like everyone has enough qualification to knock on my door".

As if encouraging us to enter, the school head said once again.

"All right. I'll immediately teach you the essence of flower arrangement inside!"

Looks like we passed the entrance test..... we can see it in that form? But I-I think that this way of introduction to the flower arrangement is unheard-of".

Sone-senpai who brought us here, made a puzzled expression while releasing her aura, and murmured like this: [.....Was the information wrong?].

Going through the front door and walking through a long corridor, the school head said with a disturbing expression.

"——The flower arrangement already started, be careful".

.....That bad presentment that I felt just before, splendidly hit the mark.

"Ha! Cloud Dragon style!"

"Hah! Beautiful mountain, battle formation!"

One after another, valiant voices could be heard.

We were brought to a——Dojo! It was an expansive training ground with wooden floors.

The women dressed in kimono were facing each other with needle-point holders or a vase of flowers. They vigorously inserted the various kinds of flowers they were holding in their respective needle-point holder and vase of flowers.

When they inserted, together with that valiant voice we heard before, they made a strange pose, a very strange pose. And the needle-point holder and the vase of flowers, became an arrangement of flowers.

.....Wh- what kind of thing is this?

A normal classroom of flower arrangement happens in a Japanese-style room, where one sits in seiza and learns the art of flower arrangement, right.....?

I-I've never heard or seen this kind of Martial arts-like Dojo where one is surrounded by flower vases and do the art of flower arrangement for each other.....

While we were in a state of shock, the school head said.

"With the flower vase as the centre, the disciples practice every day just like in real battle. My style is mainly focused on using flower vases, vases and needle-point holders, but it's a free conception. So one can use another vessel or tool different from these".

——Flower vase. this person, she's using a flower vase as a battle ring..... things like battle, or training..... I don't understand what she's saying anymore.

While we were confused, the school head asked us.

"Do you know what is the origin of the flower arrangement?"

Sone-senpai replied while raising her glasses.

"Tall trees or big rocks were treated as objects representative of Gods, is one of its origins, or it was developed together with the tea ceremony during the Muromachi period (1333-1573), it was something like this, right?"

The school head shock her head and replied like this.

"Ohohohoho, the reality is different. on the third century, in the Severus dynastic period, the emperor of Rome, Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Augustus, commonly called Heliogabalus, killed the guests who he invited to his banquet by suffocating them with a grand quantity of roses which fell upon them. Seeing this, I don’t know if

enjoyed it or not,but, that's right, in the dynastic period of Severus, the emperor of Rome, Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Augustus, commonly called Heliogabalus, became the originator of flower arrangement! Probably!"

——In the third century, Severus dynasty.....? .....being suffocated to death by roses, Heliogabalus emperor..... moreover, she said [probably].....

I could only question it, but was she pondering about it? Rias-neesan started groaning.

".....By no means, to think the origin of flower arrangement was in the Severus dynasty period..... After this, should I ask a retired ancestor who knows about this period about this.....?"

.....When only talking about her view of Japan, Rias-neesan is really dull. Even when I just came to Japan, I became extremely bewildered by the incorrect knowledge taught to me about Samurais and Ninjas. Now I understand it properly, but I wonder about Rias-neesan.....

This is all my master's fault..... Master-sama, why did you make Rias-neesan have thing kind of view of Japan.....? He's a magnificent and respectable master, but only this part, makes me want to resent him.

I sighed, but the school head as if summarizing, said with an expression filled with dignity.

"——Flower arrangement is the same as discovering death, this is the ideal held and taught by the founder of Blast-style, Jiroumaru".

Oohh!

And, Rias-neesan and Seekvaira-san were deeply impressed by this!

I and the other members could only tilt our heads to the side in confusion! One can perceive that this founder of the Blast-style, Jiroumaru, surpasses by far the extent of being someone suspicious!

It would be better if I were to tell Rias-neesan for us to immediately leave this place and find a genuine flower arrangement school.

It happened when I took a step forward to make this proposal.

The school head said to a person training in the Dojo.

"There! ——That's really stylish!"

At this sudden shout of encouragement, Sone-senpai made a puzzled expression.

"It's s-stylish.....?"

The school head said while laughing [Ohohoho].

"Yes, the art of flower arrangement. Originally, It was a word used to mean that the flowers were exceptionally arranged in the vase. However, on the occasion that one shows an exceedingly good technique in it, it became the custom in the art of flower arrangement to say that is [Stylish]".

The reaction of the princesses was——.

"To think it had this kind of meaning....."

Then, Rias-neesan started groaning once again.

"It's that really so.....? Somehow it feels like I'm going to be swallowed by this strange atmosphere".

Seems like Sona-senpai confusion increased. And, Seekvaira-san——

"That needle-point holder, looks like a good idea for a new weapon for the Original version『Gundam Muramasa』one-sixth-size(1/6), that I'm creating....."

Looking at the scene of people practising, she had a completely different impression!

If we continue in this place, these girls will learn about something not good.....!

Then, a person approached.

It was a woman with a fierce look, she was dressed in kimono with needle-point holder in her shoulders. .....I think that those needle-point holders are not something to be put in one shoulder.

"School head"

The woman with needle-point holder in her shoulders called the school head. The woman glared at Rias-neesan and the others. From her whole body aura was released, she is not someone normal, but I wanted her to be!

"Ara, Trevian-san.....that's a really aggressive atmosphere".

The woman with needle-point holder in her shoulders, smiled at the words of the school head.

"Yes, I'm interested in those new faces, because they are releasing quite the stylish aura".

The woman stood before Rias-neesan and the others and greeted them.

"I'm one of the Four Heavenly Kings of the Blast-style, my name is Trevian Suzumoto—— Ojou-chan with crimson hair, can I ask for a bout?"

[[[——!!?]]]

A sudden challenge! It didn't take even 10 minutes since we crossed the gates and a disciple—— one of their leading disciples, picked a fight with Rias-neesan!

Did she do this because she felt that the aura of Rias-neesan and others was something extraordinary?

Rias-neesan too, looked blankly in amazement, but she immediately understood it and showed a confident smile.

"Yes, if you are okay with me, I would like to receive the teachings of the senior by all means".

Ah, since long ago, Rias-neesan always accepted this kind of fight joyfully.

"School head, is it alright?"

Rias-neesan asked the school head.

The school head laughed cheerfully. It was as if she was watching a silly play between her disciples.

"Ohohoho, you two really are hopeless disciples—— do as you like, in the art of flower arrangement whatever the type, freshness it's important. There are things that can't be understood only through the flower vase".

Rias-neesan and the leading disciple woman, were staring at each other with enough intensity to fly sparks around.

When Rias-neesan becomes like this, she definitely won't retreat. .....well, it's not like they are going to try killing each other, so for a short while, let's just watch the situation.

While I was looking at it in blank amazement, the stage for the .....flower arrangement m-match(?) between Rias-neesan and the leading disciple was arranged.

The two of them were holding a flower-arranging tool—— a big needle-point holder and confronting each other.

.....The needle-point holders were as big as a mat of tatami. What kind of flower arrangement one needs to make to fight?

Hearing this commotion, the other disciples are already in watching mode too. ——and, looks like Seekvaira-san will have a match with another disciple, so people are gathered there too.

The school head confirmed with Rias-neesan and the leading disciple.

"The flower-arranging tool that will be used is this needle-point holder. This needle-point holder was specially forged by a renowned spiritualist and swordsmith. A mysterious energy resides in every one of its edges; therefore, if both are mutually 『Stylish』 it'll display various effects. As she is a novice, the first move will be done by Gremory".

Spiritualist..... mysterious energy.....! With this line up of words, one can't think of this as a flower arrangement anymore!

My concerns were increasing, but Rias-neesan and the others were looking at flowers placed in a platform.

Looking there, there were various kinds of flowers prepared, but..... other than flowers, there were vegetables and fruits too.....

"Start the etiquette!"

With the start sign, Rias-neesan moved quickly. After seeing the platform with flowers, fruits and vegetables, she took out a certain thing that was placed there.

"I decided, It's my turn!"

She inserted it in the needle-point holder.

In that instant, the disciples started a commotion and the school head groaned.

"——It's a bamboo shoot!"

That's right, the thing that Rias-neesan chose in her first move was—— a bamboo shoot! It was the surreal scene of a bamboo shoot being pierced by a needle-point holder!

Suddenly a bamboo shoot! .....Can this be considered a flower arrangement?

However, the face of the leading disciple was filled with sweat when looking at Rias-neesan’s first move (?). Looks like it was an unexpected sharp move.

The school head looked moved too.

".....On her first move, a bamboo shoot. I've never seen it before. What a bold arrangement. .....It's really stylish! 40 points to Rias-san!"

At some point a scoreboard was placed there!

——Was this match under a punctuation system!?

.....There are only things to be surprised. I can't read the creation of these flower arrangements, I can't understand it.....

Even while frustrated, the leading disciple extended her hand to the platform. From there she took out a scissors that was prepared, handling it, she processed something that we couldn't follow with our eyes.

"You did a clever first arrangement! However, In the end, that's just the luck of a beginner! A mere empty threat! I'll show you what a genuine flower arrangement is! It's my turn!"

With a good momentum, the leading disciple woman carried the needle-point holder in her two hands and threw it!

The target was a fruit—— a big and plump watermelon! In the instant that the watermelon was hit by the needle-point holder, like a flower blossoming, it split in 8 parts!

『Oohh!』

Cheering voices were raised. The surrounding disciples and the school head looked impressed at this move of the leading disciple.

"——A watermelon! Moreover, for it to split the moment it was hit is a stylish arrangement! This is just like a mother placing pieces of watermelon on the table to her children in an afternoon of summer! the watermelon split cleanly like this because it was cut beforehand, right? It's stylish! 40 points to Trevian-san too!"

She has the same points as Rias-neesan! A moment ago, when she used the scissors

and plugged it in the needle-point holder, the leading disciple was preparing for this!

.....U-unexpectedly, this style has a deep meaning? No, no, calm yourself! Don't be swallowed by the atmosphere of this place! I think that using bamboo shoots and watermelons in flower arrangement is weird!

.....At times like these, if Ise-kun were here he would raise a voice pointing out their inconsistency, Ahh.....! I really miss his sharp retorts now!

——And, about the confrontation that was happening on the side of the bamboo shoot and a watermelon one.

Seekvaira-san gave birth to a surprise move in the flower arrangement showdown that she was participating.

"T-this can't be! To arrange a needle-point holder in a toy!"

It was the confused voice of the disciple! Looking in that direction——a plastic-model robot was placed above the needle-point holder!

While fixing her glasses, Seekvaira-san said something like this.

"No, this isn't a toy. It's a Gunpla. A plastic model of a Gundam, in short, a Gunpla. This isn’t such a shallow thing that can be placed together with toys——."

And she started talking.

.....When Ise-kun hangs out with Seekvaira-san, it seems like they only talk about robot anime shows, but..... on the next day, his exhausted appearance is really memorable.

Seeing the flower arrangement that Rias-neesan and Seekvaira-san made, Sona-senpai tilt her head in contemplation and sighed.

".....As expected, I had the hunch that this was the wrong place, but..... Rias and Seekvaira are having fun..... so, this should be a way of flower arrangement too".

"Th-that's right....."

I replied like this. I and the two other 『Knights』, didn't know how to respond in this situation.

Without a doubt, here is the wrong place, but Rias-neesan and Seekvaira-san were enjoying themselves, but above that, they had serious expressions.

While we were troubled in how to react, a change happened in Rias-neesan's flower arrangement showdown——.

"How could this be!"

"Amazing! Everyone, look at that!"

Someone said that.

Looking in that direction——what! A splendid bamboo grew from the needle-point holder! It was the bamboo shoot that Rias-neesan arranged in her first move!

With her body trembling, the school head leaked a voice of wonder.

".....It's probably due to the spiritual power released by the needle-point holder and Rias-san's aura, the bamboo shoot she arranged grew splendidly..... This is a miracle..... it's like a spear piercing through the heavens....."

S-so this kind of thing happens..... That needle-point holder, I wonder how was that thing made.....

The school head shouted.

"Probably there's no result more stylish than this——Rias-san is the winner of this match!"

『Bravo!!』

A wave of cheers and applauses was started by the other disciples. L-looks like Rias-neesan won (?) this.....

Even while frustrated, the leading disciple woman applauded Rias-neesan as if recognizing her victory.

".....It was splendidly done. However, I'm the weakest among the Four Heavenly Kings. The remaining three who aren't here now, are more skilled than me in their arrangement——"

And the leading disciple woman started saying this! .....Co-could it be that we have to do a showdown with every member of the Four Heavenly Kings.....?

"I'll receive the challenge of anyone! As this is part of the training too!"

Looks like, after this victory Rias-neesan is fully motivated.

Suddenly, Sona-senpai slipped out a chuckle.

"Look at that, Kiba-kun. Rias seems to be really happy and enjoying it..... Above all, she's really serious about this..... That girl really wants to make this bride training a success. To make her think like this, just proves that she is really in love. And as a woman, this makes me a little jealous".

That's right, Rias-neesan seriously loves Ise-kun. That's why, even if this flower arrangement classroom is wrong, she's seriously trying to learn it. To become a wife that won't make him ashamed no matter where they go.

.....To support this Rias-neesan from the shadows is my duty as a 『Knight』, no..... it's my duty as a『Little brother』.

"We should join too".

I invited the other 『Knights』 to experience this unusual flower arrangement classroom.

In this way, Rias-neesan and her group and the three 『Knights』, to enjoy the essence of flower arrangement or something like that until exhaustion, joined the flower arrangement classroom..... No, we joined the flower arrangement dojo——.

This happened on a certain day.

When I went to Hyoudou mansion to play, Ise-kun was standing at the front door looking at a vase of flowers with a surprised appearance.

The flower arrangement in it was——a bamboo shoot placed on a needle-point holder!

Ise-kun asked Rias-neesan.

"H-hey, Rias. This thing is placed on the vase of flowers in the front door....."

Rias-neesan smiled while petting the bamboo shoot.

"Ufufu, it's stylish, right? This is something I learned in the flower arrangement. It's called: 『First move Bamboo shoot』. Flower arrangement is really profound. I want to challenge all styles!"

The spirit of a challenger was burning in Rias-neesan, when she becomes like this, it's part of this person to go until the bitter end.

.....Looks like my role as a 『Knight』 and as 『Little brother』 will continue. However, Rias-neesan is happy with this, so this may be a form of peace too.

Although, I'm sure that the next place that Sona-senpai introduces will be a normal place, so I can feel relieved about this.

.....But, If I continue following Rias-neesan through these bride trainings and continue to learn those skills, in the end, where should I display it?

As a boy, that's something that I could only worry about.

Kimono Girl?

These are the things that happened on a certain day.

I saw the photograph taken by Rias and the others when they were taught how to make a flower arrangement.

.....Rias and the others were dressed in kimonos and making poses that I don't really understand, but were they trying to make plastic models of a Gundam? There were vegetables and fruits pierced by countless needles.

.....What did Rias and the others learn there.....?

Despite becoming concerned about the bride training of princess-sama's who are High-Class Devils.....their appearance in kimonos was really good. No, because they are all beautiful girls and women, their graceful appearances become a drawing!

——Then, I sent my gaze to a certain beautiful girl in a kimono.

It was the genderswapped Kiba in a kimono.

.....Like always, how should I say it? Kiba who becomes a woman is cute. Well, originally he is a good looking guy, so if he were to have his gender-reversed, of course he would become a beautiful girl.

I said this to Kiba indirectly.

"Kiba, your appearance in this kimono is really beautiful. It really suits you".

It was when I said this. In an instant, Kiba became wide-eyed, but——as he understood what I said, his face became red.

".....I-is that so? .....It suits me?....."

Somehow, he was strangely happy about it, but..... was he supposed to feel this way?

Seeing this, the group of women started saying.

"As I thought, it's really good that Yuuto is a man".

"Ufufu, he would be a strong enemy, but that would make me burn".

Rias said this with a bitter smile and Akeno-san was enjoying herself.

"If Kiba was a swordswoman, my role would become faint".

"Me too, me too, I don't think I would be able to defeat Kiba-kun".

Xenovia and Irina, the group of swordswomen said this.

Seeing this the girl with white hair, Tosca-san stood and said.

"Th-this kind of thing..... is bad, but is good, but..... I think it's bad!"

Looks like Tosca-san holds complex feelings toward it even now. That Tosca-san said like this.

"However! .....I mean..... I think that I would like a photograph of Isaiah in a kimono".

She said something like this!

Rias smiled and gave the photograph to Tosca-san.

"Yes, feel free. This kind of photograph from your family is something important".

Tosca-san who received it looked really happy. And she said to Kiba.

"Isaiah! I think that I want to dress in a kimono together with you".

"Eh? Does this mean that I'll have to become a girl once again? But as it's Tosca’s request".

Probably, for Kiba, the request of his beloved comrade is something important. Rias said to me.

"Ise too, why don't you become a girl one time?"

She said something like this. The others too were: [I want to see it] or [By all means], their eyes were shining full of interest!

Oi, oi, oi, oi, oi! Even me!?

Good grief, it became like this because you took out that strange gun that should have been used only one time!

"Please, give me a break! I only want to see and touch girls and not become one!"

And there was this kind of exchange, the events of a certain day——

Life.6 White Dragon Emperor of Black History

This was an event which occurred near the end of the preliminary stage of the Rating Game World Tournament [Azazel Cup]. Visiting us in the Hyoudou Residence with a request was — a blonde beauty who adorned a white robe and white pointed hat which accentuated her image as a witch!

“Good day to you, Oppai Dragon-san.”

The female magician who revealed a brilliant smile was Lavinia Reni-san! She was a transcendent beauty who was a member of both the Grigori’s covert [Slash Dog] team and the Magician association known as [Grauzauberer]! She also happened to be a possessor of one of the Longinus — [Absolute Demise]! At the same time, she was also an existence akin an older sister for my destined rival, Vali. In fact, she was an incredible person that even Vali didn’t dare to antagonise. Well, as far as appearances went, I couldn’t see her as anything other than an attractive and kind older sister…so I couldn’t quite understand why Vali had a hard time coping with her. A man and another woman accompanied Lavinia-san.

“Yo, Chichiryuutei.”

“We’ll be in your care for the next few days, Hyoudou Issei-kun!”

The handsome, delinquent-like guy was — Samejima Kouki-san, and the lively girl with tied-up hair was — Minagawa Natsume-san (also a beauty!). These three individuals had become our comrades after they provided assistance with the Grim Reaper attack that occurred not long ago. Due to the arrival of these three rare visitors, we wanted to entertain them in the VIP Room on the top floor of the Hyoudou Residence, but they indicated otherwise to us,

“We aren’t such worthy figures, and we didn’t come here for anything that important.”

And so, we welcomed them into the living room. All of the girls who lived in my house were filled with curiosity, and so they gathered into the living room while Akeno-san brewed fresh tea for our three guests. After getting simple greetings out of the way, Rias asked them anew,

“For the three of you to come by here, I assume that something must have happened?”

After listening to Rias, Lavinia-san quietly took a sip of tea and then shared a glance with Minagawa-san and Samejima-san, revealing a wry smile. Minagawa-san began by saying,

“Umm, you see—”

Although she had only gotten that far, everyone sensed something in the air as they looked towards the living room door. There, everyone took notice of three people — Bikou of the Vali team, revealing only his face beside the frame, along with a scarlet-haired girl and a beast man with a pig-like head! Bikou was with the current generation Sha Wujing and Zhu Bajie—. W-When did those guys enter my house!? The three of them were startled as soon as they noticed our collective gaze!

“Ah! Uwah, Bikou-san, we’ve been discovered!”

While Sha Wujing appeared flustered, Bikou simply clicked his tongue.

“Tch! We’re getting out of here, Wujing, Bajie!”

As soon as they were busted, Bikou and Sha Wujing quickly made an escape.

“…Alright alright, I’ll listen to what you say…”

Zhu Bajie complained as he chased after the other two. Rias immediately declared,

“Someone go after them.”

““Understood!””

Xenovia and Irina promptly responded to the call for action, going after Bikou and the others. Given the unexpected situation, most of our members could only stay affixed to the spot with our mouths agape. With a foreboding sense of trouble, Rias sighed as she supported her forehead with one hand.

“…Those few are from Vali’s side.”

Minagawa-san forced a smile as she nodded.

“…Umm, so actually, Vali…sent those assassins after us, or perhaps just Lavinia.”

—!

…The news was shocking for everyone, though it also aroused everyone’s interest at the same time. Vali actually sent his comrades here as assassins to target Lavinia-san, whose existence was like an older sister to him. Ah, speaking of which, Kuroka and Le Fay who were residents here were not present! W-Was it possible that Vali gave them some kind of order…? I questioned Samejima-san and Minagawa-san,

“Samejima-san and Minagawa-san…can I address you two like that?”

“Just Natsume is fine.”

Minagawa-san — Natsume-san casually replied to me. I then asked,

“Isn’t Lavinia-san like an older sister to him? Why would he send Bikou and the others as assassins…?”

Natsume-san heaved a sigh.

“There’s a rather complicated reason behind it…well, putting the reason aside for now, we’d like to ask for your help given that you’re Vali’s rival, Hyoudou Issei-kun.”

Samejima-san also laughed as he said,

“Well, to cut things short, if you can help us protect the Ice Princess for a while, it’ll make things go a lot easier. In fact, some magician comrades associated with Team [DxD] will gather near this town in three days’ time. We’d be grateful if you could lend us your help until then.”

A gathering of magicians associated with [DxD] would occur near this town in three days? Ah, I did seem to recall Rossweisse-san mentioning it. Rossweisse-san just so happened to raise her hand.

“Ah, I also intend to partake in that gathering. I see, so Ice Princess Reni-san will be the representative for [Grauzauberer].”

Lavinia-san then responded to Rossweisse-san’s realisation,

“Yes, that is the case.”

I suddenly noticed that some people weren’t present, so I asked Natsume-san,

“You didn’t come here together with Ikuse-san and the rest of the team?”

I had noticed that their team leader, Ikuse-san, was missing. Natsume-san replied,

“Tobio and our other members are on a different mission. So, our leader Tobio said ‘For the time being, please protect Lavinia from Vali’s schemes’. But as expected, those of us who aren’t on a mission probably won’t be able to take all of them on.”

—Natsume-san shrugged. …‘Vali’s schemes’ huh…. So even the Strongest White Dragon Emperor in History was just a lovely old friend to some people? As the person in question, Lavinia-san—

“Fufufu, so it’s like a game of tag with Va-kun.”

Even after being targeted by assassins, she appeared rather upbeat. Well, maybe it did feel like playing a game with her little brother Vali. Xenovia and Irina returned after giving chase to Bikou and the others.

“Kuh, they slipped away.”

“They were too quick.”

Both of them seemed rather annoyed. Xenovia mimicked Bikou (she occasionally imitated others) as she said,

“I wonder what Bikou meant when he smiled and said, ‘We’ll definitely retrieve that thing first’?”

Upon hearing that, Natsume-san smiled and said,

“Is Monkey-san also participating?”

Though, this only puzzled me further. On the other hand, Rias nodded, more or less understanding the nature of the request.

“Let’s reconsider Vali’s reason for sending assassins. It’s a fact that Bikou and the others have tailed them here…. But, we’re not entirely free during this time either.”

Rias said. Indeed, the preliminary stage of the World Rating Game Tournament that we were participating in had also reached its final phase. Although we did have moments of free time such as this, there were actually many things that had to be done. But, since we had no intention of ignoring a friend’s request, Rias and I shared a glance as we nodded. Rias said,

“Movement is somewhat inconvenient with a large contingent of bodyguards, so we’ll pick a bodyguard each from my peerage and Ise’s peerage.”

“Understood.”

I expressed my agreement in doing so. Considering availability and the need for familiarity with magic, I chose Rossweisse-san from my peerage, while Rias chose Akeno-san from her peerage given that she had a close relationship with some members of the [Slash Dog] team.

“This is a great opportunity and I think I’ll be able to see the Ice Princess’ techniques up close.”

“Ufufu, how should I put this? It sounds like fun.”

Both Rossweisse-san and Akeno-san unexpectedly seemed to look forward to it. Naturally, since my rival was the mastermind behind it all—

“I, Hyoudou Issei, will also assist!”

—I declared to announce my participation. And so, along with Akeno-san and Rossweisse-san, I joined Natsume-san and Samejima-san to become Lavinia-san’s bodyguards. Now, just what was Vali up to…?

Akeno-san, Rossweisse-san and I escorted Lavinia-san as we arrived at a twenty-storey apartment building that served as the office of the [Slash Dog] team. Their office was located in a town that was only two train stops away from Kuoh Town. In the building that we entered, the first and second floors were retail stores that consisted of convenience stores, chemists, beauty salons and the like. There was an office with no signage located at the innermost area of the second floor, and that was the [Slash Dog] team’s office. Ordinarily, it seemed like some kind of technique was used near the entrance to keep humans away, so it was impossible for the average person to approach the office. Well, it felt as though the entire apartment building itself belonged to the Grigori… Coincidentally, the [Black Dog

Bar] that Ikuse-san worked at was fairly close to this apartment building. Ikuse-san was the bartender there, while Lavinia-san was the singer. There was also a restaurant on the first floor of the building that the bar was located in, which was where the other members of the [Slash Dog] happened to work. Apparently, Ikuse-san would occasionally cook up some incredible dishes for the customers there.

Upon entering the office — it looked like an ordinary office with rows of desks that various documents and computers were positioned on. It was essentially no different from my own office. —At that moment, a large black dog named Jin silently appeared from the depths of the office. It was actually a bit scary that I hadn't been able to detect its presence at all…. Natsume-san petted Jin's head.

"Oh, Jin. Is this where Tobio left you by yourself?"

Jin's eyes shifted from Natsume-san to us — more specifically, to Akeno-san. Jin walked up to Akeno-san and then sat down in front of her. Jin seemed to be rather fond of Akeno-san. Perhaps the aura that she emanated was similar to that of its owner. Seeing this, Natsume-san laughed.

"Of course, since Akeno-chan and Tobio are cousins, it seems Jin has also noticed their likeness."

Just as Natsume-san said, Akeno-san and the [Slash Dog] team's captain — Tobio Ikuse, were related as cousins. Hence, the black dog — Jin, had also lent its assistance to Akeno-san before.

"Ufufu, long time no see. Jin-chan."

Akeno-san also looked pleased as she stroked Jin's head. Watching Akeno-san's expression, Natsume-san seemed to recall something as she approached her.

"That's right! Did you hear about Suzaku recently!?"

Akeno was surprised by the mention of the current head of the Himejima clan, who was also Akeno-san's cousin.

"H-Has something happened to Suzaku-anesama?"

"She really went and did it! Geez, Suzaku is so unreasonable—"

In that manner, Akeno-san and Natsume-san positioned two chairs as they sat down together and began to speak about their common acquaintance with excitement. On the other hand, Rossweisse-san and Lavinia-san sat down on the sofa in the office and began to chat about some old and difficult-looking books on magic.

"T-This book is…! [Grauzauberer]'s interpretation of the [Book of Oath], right!? There's also commentary on [Picatrix] by Mephisto Pheles here! Wow, so many incredible books like this are just lying around!"

With sheer excitement overwhelming Rossweisse-san, she picked up books from a pile that was stacked on one of the office desks. Lavinia-san smiled as she said,

"If they're books published by our association, you can borrow as many of them as you like."

"I-I couldn't possibly! These should all be books that aren't publicly released by [Grauzauberer]! C-Can I really borrow such valuable books!?"

"It's probably okay. I'm sure it would be fine if I asked the director."

"…Once again, I feel as though [DxD] is so useful!"

In any case, the conversation around the books on magic seemed to be fruitful. Ah, it appeared that Akeno-san and Natsume-san, as well as Rossweisse-san and Lavinia-san had begun to spiral into deep conversations.

At that moment, a new person entered the room. She was a beautiful woman with European facial features, and dark blonde

double-ponytails! She also had prominent heterochromatic pupils, with her right eye being light blue while her left eye was pure black. A strange creature was cradled in her arms…with something like a mask over its face (it looked like a four-legged animal of some sort…). —As soon as I thought that, another two approached and leaned in around her legs. Leading three strange masked creatures, the beauty greeted me.

“H-Hello. My name is Nanadaru Shigune. I’m a member of the [Slash Dog] team.”

Although it was the first time that we had spoken to each other directly, I had a previous recollection of her. Nanadaru Shigune-san! I replied with,

“Hello, I’m Hyoudou Issei.”

Noticing that Nanadaru Shigune-san had greeted me, Natsume-san said,

“Speaking of which, it might the first time for this combination. She’s also one of the members who has been around since our formation. As you may already know, she’s the toughest power type member of our team as the wielder of the strongest ever [Toutetsu].”

Indeed, I had witnessed her during the matches of the tournament — she was a power type despite her slender proportions. —Even so, although being described as a ‘power type’, that was only in the form of a creature called Toutetsu, one of the [Four Fiends]. It was an independent avatar type Sacred Gear. Presented before us now were miniature versions that could be held in her arms, but it could actually transform into a ridiculously large monster during battle. Based on footage from the Rating Games, it was clear that the demonic energy of Devils, magic techniques of magicians, and even the abilities of Sacred Gears could be devoured in their entirety. Apparently, even the abilities of the Longinus could be devoured by

it. In addition, it also boasted power in proportion to its enormous body and speed unimaginable for something of its size during the matches. Even then, only one of them had been deployed in those matches, so if all three were sent forth, how would one deal with them…? Within me, Ddraig said,

[Even among the monsters in China, Toutetsu is quite the monster. It can devour anything in the world. It can even devour things that are conceptual. It's said that the people capable of wielding it are rare. If she can control three of them….kukuku, then that truly makes for a formidable team.]

If even Ddraig said so, then surely…. Nanadaru-san introduced the three Toutetsu to me.

"This one is Poh-kun, this one is Pooh-kun, and this one is Pon-kun."

""""Pooh""""

Simultaneously with their introduction, all three of the Toutetsu cried out at the same time…but all of them looked exactly alike. If I hadn't kept up with her introduction of them, I wouldn't have any idea about which one was which! —And then, Nanadaru-san said to Natsume-san,

"Ah, that's right. Hey, Natsume-chan. Because of Vali-kun, Genbu-chan—"

Oh, it seemed like Nanadaru-san had started to join the chatter as well. Just as I felt out of place with nothing to do, Samejima-san came over and pat me on the shoulder.

—!

The cover of a DVD instantly caught my attention. The title on the cover read <<Legend of the Sacred Breasts ~Tale of the Pinal Fantasy~>>, along with a picture of an erotic onee-san-type woman! A wide grin spread across Samejima-san's face as he said to me,

“Well, why don’t we head over to that side to appreciate this?”

What!? I felt grateful that my senior shared my interests!

“Alright! Take me there!”

I answered without hesitation, thus an appreciation meeting with only males in participation commenced in the room next door—.

While various things happened in the office simultaneously, another incident occurred on that day following Bikou’s assassination attempt. The person who came in through the office’s entrance was — Kuroka!

“Yahoo, I heard that everyone was here.”

Kuroka appeared before us! She swaggered in and didn’t stop her stride until she stood directly in front of a certain someone.

“Princess Lavinia-chan, please give that thing to me nyan ♪.”

Kuroka arrived in front of Lavinia-san and stuck her hand out. Lavinia-san smiled as she said,

“That I cannot do. It’s a rather important thing, you know?”

Upon hearing that, Kuroka giggled ‘nyahaha’ and then made a mischievous expression. Ooh, whenever Kuroka made an expression like that, it meant that she was probably up to no good! Just as I put myself on alert, Kuroka extended her hand and created a magic circle.

“In that case, I’ll just have to bind you up for a little while nyan! I’ll make use of that to…mufufufu!”

Hey hey hey, the Nekomata is back at it with its mischievously naughty deeds as usual! Just as I was about to push forward to stop Kuroka, Samejima-san rushed ahead from my side, removed a small pouch from his pocket, and then threw it towards Kuroka after tearing it up. The torn bag was aimed directly at Kuroka’s head, and

the powder within it instantly spurt out and coalesced with the air. A distinct and slightly unpleasant smell permeated the entire room. Immediately — its effect on Kuroka was activated.

"……U-Unyaaan ♪"

She curled up into a ball on the office floor with a numbed expression as if she was intoxicated. And then, she began to play around coquettishly on the floor just like an ordinary house cat! —At the same time, Samejima-san's kitten [Byakusa] which had been next to Kuroka also rolled over and exposed its belly playfully. Samejima-san gently laughed as he said,

"I used the matatabi that I got from the Grigori for Byakusa, which has also worked on Nekomata before. As expected, it works on all cats, huh?"

Ah, so that was the effect of matatabi! It was also produced by the Grigori! That was why even Kuroka reacted to it in such a playful manner. Its effect was profound given that Kuroka had come here to stir up some kind of trouble, and yet she had instantly been intoxicated by it…. Samejima-san smirked as he said to me,

"Do you wanna have a go with this stuff too?"

And then, he whispered to me,

(If you use this, you could have your way as much as you want with that Nekomata, you know?)

—! A lightning bolt shot through my body as soon as I heard those words! …B-By using a portion of matatabi, I could control the naughty cat that's always up to mischief!? It was certainly a rather attractive proposal, even though I thought that it made more sense for both myself and the other party to initiate erotic deeds through seduction instead! B-But, using matatabi to play with them was certainly tempting! Looking at how coquettishly Kuroka was acting right now, I felt rather good about it, but I began to ponder about

what the Nekomata sisters would think if I used it on them! As for the outcome of my deliberation—

“Please let me think about it! In a good way!”

That was the difficult answer that I had managed to come up with! — Hence, the second assassin Kuroka was repelled by us. For the time being, I decided to tie Kuroka up and then ask about the situation—.

“Huh!? A diary that Vali wrote in four years ago!?”

I exclaimed with a surprised voice.

After capturing Kuroka, the answer that I received upon asking the [Slash Dog] team about it was,

—Vali wants to retrieve an old diary from Lavinia-san.

Natsume-san said,

“Four years ago, Vali…or is it five years ago now? Around that time, the three volumes of the Black History Dia — ahem.”

After clearing her throat, she began anew. …But just then, was she about to say ‘Black History Diaries’?

“Vali made three volumes of a scripture. They are the [Book of Heart], [Book of Skill] and [Book of Technique]. Although he’s already retrieved the [Book of Skill], Lavinia-san carefully protects the remaining [Book of Heart] and [Book of Technique].”

Lavinia-san took out two notebooks. On the cover of each was the name [Vali Lucifer], written in English. …I knew about them. Once, when I went to visit a bar that was run by Ikuse-san and Lavinia-san, Lavinia-san showed me one of them. Within them were lines that he had said, and one could get a glimpse of the style that he had begun

to conceive four years ago. After taking a sip of coffee, Samejima-san said,

“By the way, the [Book of Heart] is full of lines that stem from his middle-school second-year syndrome, while the [Book of Skill] is full of middle-school second-year syndrome affected finishing moves.”

Back then, I saw the <<Book of Heart>>, right? It’s truly a diary that leaves people speechless, Vali! Lavinia-san cast her gaze from me to one of the diaries as she opened it and said,

“But, the [Book of Technique] contains a lot of unique insight from Vali on magic and demonic energy, so it’s a very important book.”

I inadvertently peered at a few pages of the diary. …Demonic energy and magic techniques with a multitude of strange names, as well as the poses for their activation were recorded within. Text that seemed to resemble chants were also recorded on the side. Was this the [Book of Technique]? Vali’s middle-school second-year syndrome seemed like a rather severe case…. Nanadaru Shigune-san said,

“Back then, Vali-kun seemed to write in those notebooks with fervent excitement.”

Written with excitement? I really would’ve liked to see that kind of situation…. With great interest, Kuroka said while tied up,

“That! Let me see it! Vali did tell me to come here and snatch it, but if you let me see it, I won’t hand it over to Vali nyan. Just letting me have a look will be enough ♪”

Instant betrayal! Did she come here with the intention of reading through it in the first place!? Well, if there was a record of my comrade’s middle-school second-year syndrome period, I’d want to see it as well! That was probably especially true for this mischief-loving cat! Lavinia-san shook her head as she shut the notebook.

“That I cannot do. I don’t feel that this is something that just anyone should see, aside from the members at the time and his destined rival.”

Oh, so no one except for me and the [Slash Dog] team are allowed to see it? Well, I’m sure if the contents were somehow leaked, Vali would have quite a tough time, mentally speaking…. When I heard that Vali was searching for and trying to recover these diaries, that was when I finally realised that they were in Lavinia-san’s hands. So that was the cause of this whole commotion? Naturally, if I had left such embarrassing diaries behind but didn’t know where they had gone missing to, I’d definitely do everything I could to find them. However, given the risk that one of his current comrades might sneak a peek at them, why wouldn’t he personally come to retrieve them…? Although I felt that there was still a lot to figure out, we had managed to repel Kuroka in any case, and so our day concluded.

Two days later — Lavinia-san and her entourage were attending another meeting close to Kuoh Town, though it was one involving the Three Factions, and unrelated to the other. We had been entrusted with the task of being her bodyguards. The meeting was attended by various representatives posted near Kuoh Town by the Three Factions for the purpose of sharing situation reports. As members of Team [DxD], our attendance was optional. Of course, if anything major happened, we’d still rush over to the meeting and provide any information on the matter that we had. On our way to the meeting, we took a shortcut through a park. At that moment, those guys reappeared in front of us!

“Yo, Ice Princess-oneechan! We’ll definitely be taking those notebooks this time!”

Bikou, Sha Wujing and Zhu Baji appeared before us again! Akeno-san, Rossweisse-san and I took up defensive positions in front of Lavinia-san. Realising that we were bodyguards, Bikou was initially taken aback, but then burst into laughter.

“Kukuku, did you call on the Sekiryuutei and his comrades? Well, why not? We may not have a dog on our side, but in order to defeat the [Slash Dog] team, we did bring a wolf!”

Just as Bikou said, a grey wolf appeared right behind them — Fenrir! Hey, come on! For the sake of retrieving just a few notebooks, they’d go so far as to bring a legendary monster to battle!?

“That’s Fenrir!”

While I became cautious, Akeno-san had already gathered lightning in her hands since she had experience in fighting against it previously.

“It looks like they’re serious about this.”

As usual, I began by equipping my armour, while Rossweisse-san prepared a magic circle with her hand. …I-I didn’t expect that they’d use something akin to a Balance Breaker just so that they could recover Vali’s diaries…. Bikou chuckled as he said,

“Kakaka! We just want to verify the contents of the diaries first! Vali seemed like he was actually panicking to try and retrieve it, so they must be some really important diaries, right? No, it’s probably just that I’m really interested now!”

Perhaps because he had the support of Fenrir, he uttered such words with a relaxed expression.

“I have a way to defeat it.”

Akeno-san said. She then raised her hand straight up — and a black shadow appeared. Leaping into the middle of our confrontation was — a large black dog, Jin!

“If our opponent is Fenrir, Jin-chan might have something up its sleeve.”

Akeno-san said. They must’ve had a considerable amount of trust in their relationship if she was able to summon it just by raising her hand. Was it because they were relatives of the Himejima clan? Jin stood directly in front of Fenrir. The legendary God Devouring Wolf and the [Dog God of the Black Blade] of a Longinus glared at each other!

“……”

“……”

Without a roar or a growl, the two creatures simply stared at each with silence penetrating the air. A moment later — Fenrir turned around, and then made a stance while facing Bikou! Fenrir bared its teeth at Bikou! It turned against them! Bikou looked so bewildered and surprised that his eyes seemed like they were about to fly out of their sockets.

“Huh, why are you coming towards me, Fenrirrr!?”

However, Fenrir simply widened its jaw to reveal more teeth than we had ever seen it display towards Bikou! Standing beside Bikou, both Sha Wujing and Zhu Bajie were also confused.

“Bikou-san, perhaps you’ve been too unscrupulous…well, not that I can say…”

“This is pretty much reaping what you sow.”

Those two also seemed to feel the same way about Fenrir’s betrayal!

“Grrrgaauuu!”

“Urrrgraaaa!”

Fenrir and Jin both charged forward, approaching Bikou!

“D-Damn iiitttttt! I’ll remember thisss!”

With Sha Wujing and Zhu Bajie in tow, Bikou instantly turned and fled — the scene in the park left us speechless. We relaxed and Lavinia-san also smiled.

“That’s wonderful. Jin-chan and Fenrir-chan have become friends.”

…Was it really a good thing that they had become friends? Well, a legendary wolf and dog seemed to have reached an understanding. —At that moment, Lavinia-san seemed to become aware of something, and she glanced towards a corner of the park. Natsume-san also seemed to understand what was going on as she heaved a sigh.

“Did Vali finally decide to come?”

Natsume-san asked Lavinia-san. Seriously!? I didn’t notice anything at all…. Following the direction of Lavinia-san’s gaze — Vali appeared under the shade of a park tree. He began to walk over toward us. Natsume-san made a wry smile. Her expression was akin to someone welcoming the return of a troublesome little brother.

“You finally decided to show up, Vali.”

With a fraught expression unlike any that I had ever seen Vali with before, he stammered to Lavinia-san,

“…L-Lavinia, please give them back to me.”

Whoa, it was the first time that I had ever seen Vali look so weak! Could it be possible that he had trouble holding a conversation with Lavinia-san? Or was he just shy? Upon Vali’s arrival, Lavinia-san also revealed a smile unlike any I had ever seen before. Her expression was like that of a sister seeing her adorable little brother for the first time in a while.

“Va-kun. You’re finally here. Now then, let’s have some tea—”

Lavinia-san leisurely said to Vali.

“No, I didn’t intend on having tea. I just want my diaries back. I…want to destroy them as soon as possible. I’m not the same person that I was back then, and I hope you can understand that, Lavinia.”

Despite Vali’s serious expression, Lavinia-san tilted her head as if she was slightly puzzled by his words. Damn Vali, isn’t she just the cutest older sister!? You’re making me feel jealous! I asked Natsume-san,

“U-Umm, the reason why Vali never showed up in person until now…”

Natsume-san made a light smile as she said,

“He’s just embarassed. The diary is one thing, but he’s just really bad at dealing with Lavinia. After all, she’s Va-kun’s older sister.”

Vali’s ‘older sister’ said to him,

“I understand, and since you say so, I’ll return them to you, Va-kun.”

Hearing that message seemed to give Vali some peace of mind. — However, while Lavinia took the notebooks out, she continued,

“In exchange, I want to stroke Va-kun’s head.”

“—!”

Pure shock eclipsed the expression on Vali’s face upon hearing Lavinia-san’s request! Was it really that surprising!? I’d be totally fine if such a beautiful woman wanted to touch my head, in fact, I’d be okay with her touching me anytime and anywhere!

“…In front of Hyoudou Issei?”

Vali looked at me as he spoke with trepidation. As I thought, he seemed pretty conscious of the fact that I would be present. A wide smile spread across Lavinia-san’s face as she replied with,

“Yes.”

On the other hand, Vali said,

“Give me a moment to think about it!”

And then folded his arms as he began to deliberate over it with a pained expression. In his mind, it seemed like accepting Lavinia-san’s head pat was something that required significant determination. Upon bearing witness to this scene, Natsume-san, Samejima-san and Nanadaru-san each said,

“This is truly a rare sight, Hyoudou Issei-kun.”

“Well, this is a decent opportunity. If only Vali would go back to how he used to be easy to get along with.”

“This really takes me back. It used to feel just like this.”

Well, after an intense internal struggle that lasted several minutes, Vali — finally decided that retaking the diaries was his priority, and so he accepted Lavinia-san’s terms,

“Okay.”

Upon hearing those words, Lavinia-san approached Vali and then held his face close to her bosom. With an expression that was filled with affection, Lavinia-san gently stroked Vali’s head.

“…Tobi and I want you to come play with us more. I’ll always be waiting.”

Lavinia-san said. Vali — with his face burning as bright red as it could possibly be, his expression was almost indescribable. After around a minute, Vali backed away from Lavinia-san. He then immediately took the two diaries that Lavinia-san handed to him.

“I’ve gotten the diaries back.”

While saying that, Vali spread his wings of light and immediately flew off as if it was a desperate escape. And bidding him farewell, Lavinia-san simply waved her hand at him. To her, it seemed like Vali was like a child who occasionally visited her to play. However, all of the

diaries had returned to Vali's hands…. Natsume-san asked Lavinia-san,

"Was it okay to just give all of the diaries back to him?"

In response, Lavinia-san produced a magic circle at her feet, from which a large number of books emerged. Notebooks stacked up high like a mountain appeared! Facing the countless notebooks which were piled up like a mountain, Lavinia-san said,

“It’s not a problem at all. Because they’re such precious and important diaries for Va-kun, I prepared many copies.”

—! What the…! Vali, your troubles are going to be endless! Rossweisse-san then interjected from the side,

“To tell the truth, I actually helped to make these replicas…moreover, magic was applied to the production process, making the defence of each book even more perfect than the originals. I’m afraid the Vali team will have quite the struggle regardless of whether they wish to obtain or destroy them.”

Rossweisse-san also helped!? And she used magic to enhance them! How many times was Vali going to have to endure those head pats until he obtained all of them!? Despite my envy of the head patting, I could only give my heartfelt regards to my rival for the difficult future that he had ahead of him.

Restaurant

When the final stage of the Rating Game World Tournament was just about to commence—. On that day, I, Hyoudou Issei and Rias brought Ingvild, who had just become a member of my peerage, along to the restaurant where Ikuse Tobio-san was the chef. Since Akeno-san and Koneko-chan's schedules also seemed to line up, they came along as well.

"Welcome. What would you like to order?"

Ikuse-san asked us just as we all sat down at the counter. He was in the midst of preparing something in a frying pan.

"I wonder what I should pick for Ingvild that would suit her tastes…"

Just as I stared at the menu and hesitated over what to order — I suddenly heard someone call out to me.

"The pasta dishes aren't too bad."

"The western-style dishes are pretty good."

Moreover, such suggestions were tossed at me from various different directions! Glancing around, I saw Vali at a nearby table…with a beautiful girl dressed in yellow (around sixteen to seventeen years old) whom I had seen before, though I didn't know her name! At another table further inside sat Cao Cao! Why were they all here!? Vali conversed with Ikuse-san, while Cao Cao also chimed into the conversation from time to time. In any case, it seemed like quite an incredible group of people had gathered here. W-Well, the first thing to do was to make an order. We ended up ordering the recommended hamburger set, Hayashi rice, pasta dishes and the like.

"If I recall, you are—"

Rias greeted the girl who sat at the same table as Vali. In response, the girl stood up and politely bowed.

“Apologies for not introducing myself earlier. My name is Doumon Genbu.”

Doumon—. It was one of the Five Principal Clans. Moreover, it was also the name of the Sacred Beast [Genbu]. Upon closer inspection, there was a tortoise that was around fifteen centimetres on the table…though its tail seemed to resemble a snake…making it a rather unusual tortoise. …So that was the Sacred Beast [Genbu]? Speaking of which, I had seen that girl before during the Grim Reaper attack.

“Ara, Rias. Is this your first time talking to her directly?”

Akeno-san asked. It seemed that Akeno-san had previously met Doumon Genbu-san. As soon as our eyes met, we greeted each other politely with phrases like,

“Thanks for your help that time.”

“Not at all, anytime.”

It seemed that the Five Principal Clans were quite closely connected with each other. I asked Vali,

“What’s up? On a date?”

When I said that, Vali remained stoic, but Doumon Genbu-san’s face turned bright red.

“I-I-I-I-I-I-I-It’s not a date…! Vali-kun and I just happened to coincidentally meet in this store…”

Ah, so that’s what happened huh. I wasn’t sure who had arrived first, but it seemed that they were seated at the same table anyway. Surely, Ikuse-san must’ve had good intentions in doing so. Though the relationship between the two of them was somewhat interesting…there was no reason to pursue it now. I then asked Cao Cao who was sitting further inside,

“Do you come here often?”

Cao Cao — eating a combo of omurice and a cheeseburger, replied,

“It’s because this shop can tailor its dishes to my preference.”

I guess it was a convenience born from being a regular customer. Ikuse-san was probably capable of accommodating. While we conversed with our acquaintances, our food was served. For Ingvild — her entrée was a sea bream carpaccio. It was also super authentic! Ikuse-san continued to cook as he explained,

“I heard that she once lived near the sea, so perhaps she’d enjoy some seafood dishes. I’m making grilled marlin and seafood pasta right now, so it’ll be ready soon.”

As I watched Ikuse-san skilfully cook in the kitchen, I couldn’t help but feel the power of a male chef! All of us had been served the dishes we ordered, so we began to dig in and enjoy them.

Wow, delicious! This hamburger! The thickness of the meat, the juiciness…its taste was enthralling! I felt as though the sauce was used to draw out and highlight the flavour of the meat!

“…Would you be able to teach me this pasta recipe later?”

Even Rias who was a great cook had nothing but praise for the food!

“Ufufu, I’d love to come here on a date with Ise-kun too.”

Akeno-san said. Yeah, the dishes at this store were delectable, and it could also be a date venue.

“…I’m also grateful for the large serving sizes.”

Koneko-chan scrumptiously feasted on a large size…or rather a special sized hamburger (with ten layers). And then, Ingvild remarked—

“—Delicious.”

She really seemed to like it. She savoured the grilled marlin and seafood pasta that was served afterwards. While continuing to cook, Ikuse-san said,

“If there’s anything that you like or want to try, feel free to ask. I’m good at cooking while memorising what all of my comrades’ tastes are after all.”

Ah — so that was why Vali and Cao Cao came here. It was delicious to begin with, but there was also the flexibility for food to be adapted to one’s preferences. I wanted to bring along Asia and the others next time since they couldn’t make it today. And just like that, this was how we spent a very ordinary weekend—.

Life.7 Superhero Trial

This happened when we were doing our devil job in the [Hyoudou Issei Peerage Office].

We received a certain request through a magic circle of communication.

『I certainly want your cooperation.』

——It was a request by people with whom I'm familiar.

Then, on my next holiday, I received the request together with my peerage who were: Asia, Xenovia, Rossweisse and Ravel (Although they aren't from my peerage, I brought together Irina and Elmenhilde too).

We were going to teleport to the place requested, but..... as it was unnecessary, we walked there by foot.

It was a business enterprise building in the neighbouring town.

The restaurant of this company is open to ordinary guests on the forenoon, so we students could enter.

We didn't stop on the restaurant floor and went through a corridor; there, a janitor was cleaning with a mop and he looked at us.

Confirming our appearances, the janitor took out his cap and turned towards here.

"I'm sorry for having you guys come here".

The janitor who said this was——Cao Cao! The leader of Hero Faction! To think he would work as a janitor in a business enterprise!

Looking at his own work and we who were surprised at it, Cao Cao gave a little laugh.

"Haha, the Holy Spear user is a janitor".

No, no, somehow, he's making a face like he said something clever!

We went toward the roof of the building together with Cao Cao when his job ended. There, Cao Cao said,

"To tell the truth, the one who made the request to you guys was——We the Hero faction. We want the cooperation of you guys in one of our activities. Or rather, if you guys don't cooperate, it's probably impossible to do it".

He said this kind of thing while dressed as a janitor.

Xenovia said.

"Hmm, cooperation with the Hero Faction? However, I heard that because all the bad things that you guys did, other than the tournament, basically, all other activities of you guys were ceased? Rather, if you guys were to make a move, you all would be purged".

That's right, as Xenovia said, the Hero Faction was originally a group of terrorists affiliated with the『Khaos Brigade』. They carried out terrorist actions against every faction and even caused a big incident like the 『Demonic Beast Riot』.

To the public, they were disbanded.

However, they were picked up by the Heavenly Emperor of Mount Meru, Indra, and under the title of [Sakra’s Vanguard] were included as one of the organisations of Mount Meru. With Indra being responsible to supervise them, if they worked for Indra, their activities would be pardoned.

Of course, they were being controlled. If they do something strange, they'll be purged by those of the God-class.

Precisely because they are being watched to this extent, they were able to join the current International Rating Game Tournament that is being hosted, but.....

Although, this doesn't change the fact that they are ex-terrorists. The fact that they ask for cooperation from us, who are members of team 『D×D』, is.....

Ravel said as if she understood the request of Cao Cao.

"If you have our cooperation, the cooperation of people related with 『D×D』 or the Sekiryuutei, it becomes possible..... this is what you want to say, right?"

Cao Cao nodded at Ravel's question.

"As expected of Sekiryuutei's tactician . It helps that you understand it fast".

Cao Cao said.

"To be honest, since we entered the tournament, there are candidates who want to join our team appearing one after another. For some time, we refused them, but..... for a moment,

, this was the opinion between my comrades".

I see, I see, so it had this kind of circumstance.

Well, these guys were playing an active role like an irresistible force in the tournament after all. Sacred Gear possessors who are confident in their powers, would start considering joining it.

Or rather, if it's a person who can be beneficial, they probably would want them as their battle power.

Cao Cao continued talking.

"However, we made that incident in the past. We are people charged with crimes. If we increase our battle power as we please we'll be sentenced to death. .....With this assumption in mind, we asked our boss——Indra".

『Well, if you were to do it together with the 『D×D』 bunch who are seen as the allies of justice by the public..... Especially that

Sekiryuutei brat, if he were to look at it from up close, everything would be alright, don't you think so? 』

——And, looks like Indra replied like that.

Cao Cao said once again.

"As there was this kind of thing too, I would like to ask for your cooperation. I would like you to be a trial inspector for those taking the test, but..... of course, we are the ones that'll be arranging the trial, so we won't take your time".

So it was like this.

Well, if it was last year, I would immediately refuse it, but..... my relationship with these guys changed in various ways.

"I don't particularly care. However, only if my schedule permits".

I replied like this.

The peerage members and Irina had mixed feelings, but seems like they came to the conclusion that, if I was alright with, so were they.

Ravel gave her Ok too.

But, she had something she was curious about, so she asked Cao Cao.

"By the way, why are you working on this building?"

That's right! I was curious about this too! I mean, Cao Cao being a janitor, there should be a limit to unexpected things.

Cao Cao shrugged his shoulders.

"Because of my position, I infiltrated various places. And, to learn about the current information and state of mind of humans, working like this is a good way. And, simply because we have financial problems".

Ravel said.

"Financial problems..... I heard from rumours that the Hero Faction lacks funds".

I see, I see, so there was this kind of rumour.

Saying, “You are really sharp,” to Ravel, Cao Cao showed an ironic smile, but he attested to Ravel words.

"We have our circumstances you see, perpetual poverty. Although, there's no problem in the money to pay you guys. At least this much we can arrange".

Cao Cao replied like this, but.....

Is that so? So these guys have a problem with money.

Elmenhilde whispered in my ear.

[I heard that they are sending support money for the reconstruction of every city that they destroyed while they were affiliated with [Khaos Brigade].)

So they are paying for their deeds like this..... That's why they are in perpetual poverty. I mean the harm caused by the 『Demonic Beast Riot』 that they made is considerably big.....

While hearing this kind of internal condition, it was decided that we are going to be in the role of a inspector for those taking the test of the Hero Faction in the next holiday——

And then, on the next holiday——

We came to the meeting place, where the new members trying to enter the Hero Faction will be taking their test..... We came to Tokyo!

I was told that this is [One of the territories of Indra], seems like they are borrowing the influence from one of the institutions of Indra in the neighbourhood.

Certainly, there is the [Shibamata FuriganaTemplate:Taishakuten].....

We started our role as an inspector in the meeting place arranged for the trial in a vast space in the underground of Shibamata.

As the roof is high and the sides wide, one can take quite the flash actions here. I heard that there are various places like this.

However, we the people who possess superpowers or those from the supernatural side, really have supplies of this kind of underground space. Or rather, don't the big shots have too many of this kind of space?

While I had this kind of doubt in my mind, in total, there were a little less than 200 candidates who appeared in this place to take the enrolment test.

Everyone had brave faces.

There were many men with a good physique. The women too, there were only women with heroic appearances, making one think of them as a fearless fighter.

All of them were Humans with confidence in their abilities.

Naturally, there are those with Sacred Gear among them too. And looks like those who are descendents of Heroes or——those who inherited their souls came too.

In other words, for a normal human, those guys gathered here are humans with incredible powers.

.....It was supposed to be like that, but.

".....He-hey, that's the Sekiryuutei".

"Xenovia Quarta, Shidou Irina and Rossweisse are there too".

"Why is the『Sekiryuutei of the Blazing Truth』team here.....?"

The people who were going to take the test, all showed the same fearful expression when they perceived us.

Ravel said.

"If we were to look for the perspective of a Human who holds superpower, we don't even need to mention Ise-sama, but everyone else too, it isn't a talk if we are on the level of strong people or not. Those could be bad words, but it's natural for them to see us as monsters. We did go wild in the tournament to that extent after all".

.....I see, so from the perspective of a Human warrior who holds superpower, we are seen like that. Because we did many things with the momentum of breaking the field..... that currently it became like this.

While this kind of thing happened, Georg from the Hero Faction stood on a platform that was made in this meeting place. His voice vibrated while speaking through a megaphone.

『Eh– the people gathered here. Today――』

In this way the 『The test for the new members of the Hero Faction』 started.

The first test was a written examination.

In an adjacent space of the meeting place, desks and chairs were provided, the written examination was being done there.

Seems like they were told in advance that there would be a written examination, so the warrior taking the test took out their respectively writing materials and studied for the last time

.....It's like a written examination for a student. Well, because it's a test, so it's natural, but a warrior taking a written examination is.....

To us who were waiting in the corner of the space where the written examination was being done, a handsome man with brown hair――Perseus said.

"Well, that just means that one needs to have at the very least this much of intelligence. Ah, take this, it's grass dumplings".

——Then, I received the speciality of Shibamata, grass dumplings, but.....

Because we are only watching it, so it's alright. Although Ravel is very interested in it, it looks like she thinks that we can grasp the power of the opponent for when we need it later.

The exam paper sheets were distributed on the desk of the members taking the test of the Hero faction. The teacher was——Rossweisse-san.

Because she's a teacher, she became the person in charge of it voluntarily.

"Hey! you there! Refrain yourself from whispering! The woman there too, to use makeup before the exam, please!"

She was sharply checking the attitude of the examinees. As expected of a teacher. She was harsh even before the test.

After distributing the exam sheets, when everyone was waiting in silence, Rossweisse-san——

"You can start it".

And together with her voice, the written examination started.

In the silent space, only the sound of pens writing in the exam sheets could be heard.

.....Well, to just watch it silently is a little too much, so I checked the details of the exam.

The details of the exam were basically about Heroes, every mythology and the current state of mind of the supernatural world. From history to modern society all kinds of questions related to superpowers and the supernatural world appeared.

There are questions about certain Heroes from Europe and even from the Sengoku period of Japan. .....I'm not confident about passing this exam.

——Then, suddenly, I ended on a question that I was curious about.

"The name of your subspecies Balance Breaker is a question!?"

I retorted to Cao Cao who suddenly sat in a chair by my side.

To write the name of Cao Cao subspecies Balance Breaker..... what the hell is this!

Cao Cao suddenly laughed.

"Because I'm participating in the tournament too, it would be bad if they don't even know the name of the Balance Breaker of their leader, me".

Even if you say that, even among the Balance Breakers that I know, yours is one of those with considerably long and troublesome names, you know?

But, I remember it. Polar Night Longinus Chakravartin! How is it, amazing right?

By the way, the Balance Breakers that I have problems in remembering their names are Gyasuke's 『Forbidden Invade Balor the Beast』, Ikuse-san's 『Perfectus Tenebrae Lykaon et Fortis Densus Laelaps』and Dulio's『Flagello di Colori dell'Arcobaleno, Speranza di Briscola』. No– everyone is too absorbed in the names of the subspecies Balance Breakers..... Well, I think that I remember them for the most part. However, we have a fellowship and it's a valuable Balance Breaker of a comrade, so it would be bad if we don't remember it.....

Hercules said while scratching the back of his head.

".....Even though the name of Cao Cao's Balance Breaker alone is already troublesome, there are questions about the crazy names of the Balance Breakers of the other Longinus' too".

As Hercules said, just as I was thinking about the name of the Balance Breaker of Gyasuke and the others, it appeared as a question in the written exam. .....It's difficult to become a member of the Hero Faction.

Cao Cao complemented.

"Look here".

Looking at the next question of the previous one——

Cao Cao said.

"Of course, I'll have them know the name of the normal Balance Breaker too".

Ah, I don't know the answer to this one too.

Because the subspecies one is too long, I ended up remembering it and somehow, the normal one just didn't enter my head! Or rather, it's no good to be unable to respond to the name of the normal Balance Breaker! You! It's not this one!

If I don't remember it wrong, True Longinus was part of the name.....right? And there was something about white night too...

"Look at this, Ise".

Xenovia pointed at a question in the written exam.

"..... Even the lyrics of [Oppai Dragon song] became a question!"

Even my song became a question, what should I say about this.....

"You can feel relieved. We contacted the Gremory household, so we won't have troubles with copyright".

And Cao Cao said something like this..... no, for me that's not the problem.

"Dammit, I can't remember the third verse".

"Was it about flying? or about pushing.....?"

"I only know about zoom-zoom iyaaan....."

Look at that! The examinees were hugging their heads as they struggled against the lyrics! If it's a person not interested in it, this is something from a completely different territory!

Asia asked me with a perplexed expression.

"I-Ise-san, this question.....".

I moved my eyes to the question that Asia mentioned——

"Why, this kind of thing is being asked in a place like this!? This has nothing to do with this!"

I suddenly started retorting them! It's only natural! Why is that rare book, with me and Kiba as a theme that is popular among some people of Kuou Academy, being questioned here!? This isn't something like just rare information, you know!? If there's an examinee who came here and is able to respond to this, this person is considerably fearsome! I absolutely don't want to socialize with this person!

"Seems like there are fans of this book among our female members. So we used it as one of the difficult problems".

Cao Cao replied like this!

Serious!? that book is circulating even in the Hero faction!?

"I quite like it, you know? I cried in volume 17".

Jeane from the Hero faction said this without hesitation! Jeane-san!? What's the meaning of this!? This is a difficult problem for me!

Xenovia said while sighing.

"As a Kaichou, I heard about it, but there are rumours that this book is being reprinted in secret. I was curious, so I sent Ouryuu and Millarca to spy it".

.....Like always that guy, Nakiri is being asked to-do strange things by Xenovia.....

No, ...I see, so It's being reprinted..... I need to find where it's being reprinted and stop it! I vowed like this inside my mind.

Suddenly, A face that I'm familiar with was reflected in my eyes.

".....I already went to Kuoh Academy once, but it's this kind of thing popular there?"

"As expected, that place is outrageous!"

Ah, that's the girl who previously came to Kuoh Academy wanting to inquire about a black bra, the girl on her side is one of the girls who came together that time too.

Arara, so these girls are taking the test to enter the Hero faction too?

Which reminds me, Cao Cao too, had a little participation in that incident.

While this happened, the written examination ended safely.

The next and the last test is a practical skill test.

After the written examination, Magic and superpowers were quickly graded. We threw people at a problems too (We cooperated in this one), after a few hours the grading ended.

26 people passed the written examination.

.....26 people completely knew and wrote down the third verse of [Oppai Dragon song]. I could only say that this was menacing. The hero faction is terrible.....

The examiners for the practical skill test are Hercules and Perseus.

The two of them were yawning with boredom while the written examination was happening, now that it's time for the practical skill test, they are suddenly filled with the spirit to do it.

Hercules stood with his arms crossed boldly before those who passed the written examination.

"Hahahaha, It's better if you guys don't think that this practical skill test will be the same as the paper test, you know? After all, if you guys don't have the skills to convince the leaders you guys won't be passing this!"

Perseus said while skillfully spinning his sword.

"You can freely use any kind of Sacred Gear, superpower, or magic. because we want someone who can be immediately used in the tournament. The opponents are Legendary monsters and especially, Gods. That's why, if you were to use a half-hearted method, you won't progress from here!"

In this way, The practical skill test started with these two examiners of the physical faction.

The kind of warrior that the Hero faction desires are..... as expected, considerably hard to find. The examinees of this time too had an inevitable hard fight in their practical test.

While watching Hercules and Perseus sending the examinees flying, I asked Cao Cao.

"Probably there are those who are confident in their skills, but failed the written examination, right?"

I said like this.

From the guys who failed the previous written test, I have a hunch that apart from their knowledge, their physical abilities were excellent. In addition to that, the test had that kind of details.

Georg said while raising his glasses.

"Of course, those who failed, are taking a supplementary test in another space. However, the real intention of the Hero faction is to find someone who knows about us and those we'll probably be fighting against in the tournament from now on, at least the minimum possible".

Ah, so those people who failed the written examination have a lifeline. I mean, it would be a waste if one of them has a powerful ability, but won't be rewarded because of that test. I would even want to introduce myself to them.

Suddenly, Georg smiled.

"However, humour, or rather, it's certain that we want flexibility. Because we don't have that we were defeated by you guys. Well, It's not like I don't like the current team".

Cao Cao and Georg looked at Hercules and Perseus who were doing the practical skill test.

"Ora, ora, at least show me a punch which can send me flying!"

"Ohh, the Ojou-chan there. You're cute, how old are you? What do you like to eat?"

While encouraging and sending the examinees flying was Hercules and on the other side, Perseus was courting the female warriors while evading their attacks. This practical skill test had a completely different atmosphere from the brutal one it was supposed to have.

It's hard to think of them as that Hero faction who was just a mass of hostility and fighting spirit. It was like a club of the Hero faction.

Cao Cao, Georg and Jeane were watching it while eating grass dumplings too.....

——Then, in this practical test too, finally a tough person appeared.

The first to stand out was——.

"I'm called, Momono Kibitsuhiko!"

It was a Young, Japanese-looking man dressed with a battle surcoat and a headband.

On his surroundings..... A monkey with more or less 3 metres of height, a giant dog. Suddenly, the man raised his hand——and a giant raven appeared on the air.

Ravel said.

"A monkey Youkai who experienced many years, a Dog God..... and a raven coming from China, probably?"

——She guessed like this. Ah– it's not the same Dog God like Jin from Ikuse-san, it's a Youkai Dog God.

Momono.....Kibitsuhiko.....? followed by three Youkais? Somehow he reminds me of that character that every Japanese knows, but.....

The man said.

"I'm the person who inherited the soul of Momotarou who was also known as Kibitsuhiko-no-Mikoto!"

Ooh, it's really Momotarou! Which reminds me, he's a person who is said to have existed long ago! That's why a Monkey, Dog and Green Pheasant..... or rather, a Raven.

Hercules asked Momotarou-san.

"Apart from the Dog and the Monkey, what happened with the Pheasant? that's not a Pheasant Youkai, right?"

The man showed a painful face.

".....There's no Pheasant Youkai. However, even if I were to bring a normal Pheasant here.....".

Looks like he has some painful circumstances. Well, even if he were to bring a Pheasant it couldn't be helped.....

Hercules was convinced with an inexpressible face and took his stance.

"Oh well, come!"

Momotarou-san took out a katana from his waist and charged at Hercules, together with his three companion youkai's!

"Toyaaaa!"

Surprisingly! Momotarou-san skills with the sword were quite splendid, he got to grips with Hercules and skillfully using his companions, was toying with Hercules.

"No bad".

"Yes".

Cao Cao and Georg look impressed by this.

While this kind of examinee appeared too, finally, on Perseus' side, someone skilled appeared.

Dressed in a Chinese gallant costume..... An extremely cute young girl appeared!

She held a folding fan of feathers in her hand and boldly introduced herself to Perseus.

"I'm a descendent of Zhuge Liang, the current Zhuge Liang!"

She introduced herself with a cute voice!

Serious!? A descendent of.....Koumei!? Oooohh! This is amazing! In the team led by Cao Cao, the descendent of Koumei appeared! However, she's a Loli!

Cao Cao too, showed a smile filled with interest.

Perseus laughed with joy too.

"Hey there, small strategist-dono. Could it be that you are lost in our leader’s place?"

Perseus was underestimating the young girl Koumei.

However, the eyes of the young girl Koumei shined and she pointed her folding fan to the ground.

"Drill!"

She shouted like this..... but nothing happened.

"Arara, what happened, what happened?"

It happened when Perseus tried to take a step forward while laughing.

Together with a dry sound, a hole opened at Perseus’ feet. in that way Perseus——.

"AAAAAAAAAhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!

——He fell on the hole!

Next, Koumei turned her folding fan towards the air and shouted [Put!].

.....A few seconds passed since Perseus fell. Perseus raised a voice from the hole [Touu!] and jumped out of it!

"A hole of this extent——".

Gashaaa! Perseus was saying something, but a block manifested above his head and with the good momentum of his jump, he hit with his head there!

"~~~~!!!"

Because while he was coming back from the hole, a block appeared above his head and he hit it, he was releasing a soundless shout of anguish in the place while throbbing.

Koumei said proudly.

"How is it? This is my Sacred Gear, 『Strategic Trap』 it can generate simple traps wherever I want".

Ooh, so there's this kind of Sacred Gear too.

"..............Kuh!"

Perseus who lost his composure to a certain extent tried to approach Koumei, but blocks and holes appeared everywhere and interfered with the path.

"Ahahahaha, she is leading Perseus around by the nose".

Cao Cao looked considerably satisfied by the Perseus vs, Young girl Koumei test.

Looks like Momotarou-san and Koumei-chan are approved.

However, how should I put this? There isn't a strong woman warrior around?

As I looked toward the examinees with a lewd heart, Cao Cao came asking me.

"Do you want to fight against a female warrior?"

Cao Cao came saying this as if he understood what I was thinking! Good grief, this guy who’s specialized in technique, just by only looking at my attitude can he understand this?

Xenovia said.

"It's because Ise was releasing a lewd looking aura".

『That's right.』

My female comrades said in unison.

Seriously!? So a lewd aura was being released.....

Cao Cao said.

"Looks like, especially requesting the Sekiryuutei to be the examiner this time, will have a big meaning. If you are alright, would you like to participate?"

Ah– If I as an examiner were to participate, it would prove the necessity and transparency of this trial, there's this kind of aim too, right?

Jeane said.

"Sekiryuutei, if it's a cute child, there’s one among those who passed the written examination, you know? Right, Georg? The one with the red hood".

Georg said while raising his glasses.

"Red hood.....Ahh that『Little Red Riding Hood』as the theme. However, that's a little——".

Interrupting what Georg was trying to say, Jeane said to me.

"That's right, 『Little Red Riding Hood』. I think it’ll be a good opponent to the Sekiryuutei, It would certainly be good if you were it’s opponent".

I thought that her words somehow had a hidden meaning, but..... well, a『Little Red Riding Hood』as the theme probably wouldn't be too bad.

However, a 『Little Red Riding Hood』Hero? It's really just that? I don't know about this kind of thing very well, but..... I want it to be a beautiful girl!

I left the supervision seat and stood before the examinees.

I said with a little expectation.

"The person with a red hood, are you there? It was decided that I'll be your opponent".

I said like this to the examinees, then——.

"Hey there.....".

It was a deep voice that I'm familiar with hearing.

The face downward of the person covered by a red hood, denied it to be a beautiful girl. An incredible thick neck, a massive chest, two arms like the trunks of a big tree, legs wider than my waist.....! A two-meter giant! And the face of an old person disproportioned with this magnificent youthful body!

" I'm the『Little Red Riding Hood』.....".

The person who appeared covered by a red hood saying this. was His Eminence Vasco Strada disguised as『Little Red Riding Hood』!!

My eyes flew out of their socket of surprise!

"No, no, no, that's a lie right!? It's His Eminence! It's definitely His Eminence! No matter from where you look it's His Eminence! From where this person is a female warrior, JEEAAANNEEE!!!!!!!!!!"

I started protesting against Jeane who was seated on the seat used by leaders.

Jeane only showed an amused smile.

"Ara? I didn't say even once that it was a cute girl, you know? I only said that it was a cute child, right? Ah, but, the cute child could be His Eminence".

C-certainly, she probably didn't say it was a girl, but.....! The cute child you said is His Eminence, what the hell is this!

However, it shouldn't be like this! If it was that Yeti also known as Snow gorilla, or that pervert known as Mil-tan, it would be better than this, but for His Eminence to appear here!

Moreover, He's dressed in women's clothes, he even put on makeup!! On his hand there's a basket! You are an elderly person in your eighties! There are limits even to be unreasonable!

――An outrageous『Little Red Riding Hood』, that looks like would be able to make the wolf run away trembling was standing before me!

Asia, Xenovia and Irina, when this important person from the Church appeared, the Church trio started praying. .....So it's alright even if he's dressed in 『Little Red Riding Hood』 appearance.....

I swallowed the saliva in my mouth and calmly asked.

"B-by the way, why are you here.....?"

His Eminence said a little voice.

"I was asked in absolute secrecy, to watch if the Hero faction would do the trial properly. Fu fu fu, of course, it was a needless concern".

Ah, I see, the same as us. If His Eminence were to disguise himself as a woman and infiltrated among the examinees, he could spy on the moves of the Hero faction with security.

It's hard being an ex-terrorist too. Well, this just shows that they did things to deserve this.

――Then, As I understood the circumstances of His Eminence, It would be good if we let each other go as two people with the same work in this place.

I started retreating backwards little by little.

"His Eminence..... I said wrong,『Little Red Riding Hood』-chan, what do you think of having Jeane as the opponent ?"

I said like this, but the mentioned 『Little Red Riding Hood』-chan, showed a deep complacent smile and said.

"No, no, I really want to fight against the Sekiryuutei-san~".

He said something like this with his deep voice on purpose!

I was fully motivated to evade this situation, but 『Little Red Riding Hood』-chan, trembled her muscles and while tearing the costume everywhere took a posture aiming her fist at me!

"Sekiryuutei-san, Sekiryuutei-san, please, give me a lesson, so that I can defeat the scary wolf".

"The only scary wolf to you would be something from Fenrir-class, right!? I don't want this!!! I don't want to fight against this 『Little Red Riding Hood』-chan!!"

I felt like being ready to run away a little, but while shedding tears I made my determination, wore the armour and became the test opponent for 『Little Red Riding Hood』-chan——.

Later, the results of that trial were brought to us in the [Hyoudou Issei Peerage Office].

Including Momotarou and young girl Koumei, many others were approved.

As for the 『Little Red Riding Hood』..... Well, she was approved, but looks like she declined it. Or rather, if I think about it now, since His Eminence Strada passed the written examination, there's the possibility of him knowing the lyrics of [Oppai Dragon song].....

"It's about His Eminence we are talking, it wouldn't be weird if he knew about that book of you and Kiba".

Xenovia said something like this.

.....That is absolutely unpleasant! Or rather, I need to quickly stop the reprinting of that book!

Suddenly, Ravel came reporting.

"Ise-sama, another request from the Hero faction arrived, they want you to accompany them in searching the origin of the fairy tales throughout the world.....".

The origin of fairy tales!? The vision of His Eminence dressed as Snow White and Cinderella flashed in my mind! I can only feel a bad presentiment about it!

".....Reply that we'll do it at the next opportunity!"

For a while, the phenomenon of me seeing the girls who appeared in the fairy tales as His Eminence Strada continued——.

Infinity Underwear.1

On a particular weekend—.

I, Hyoudou Issei, relaxed on the rooftop of the Hyoudou Residence which consisted of six aboveground floors and three underground floors. There was a table and chairs that anyone could make use of on the rooftop. Drinking some cola by myself there, I dreamily gazed up at the sky. As the [King] of the Hyoudou Issei peerage, as a member of the anti-terrorist team [DxD], and as the [Oppai Dragon], every passing day was so busy that I occasionally wished for some time alone. Although it was nice to be relieved of stress by spending time with Rias and the other girls, I'd recently come to enjoy sipping on cola while I gazed at the sky by myself. I also enjoyed being alone in my room to construct robot figures. I was participating in the International Rating Game Tournament [Azazel Cup] as well, so a warrior's rest was important. Perhaps because all sorts of people had gathered by my side, I actually wanted to spend some time on my own. While I gazed at the sky with such thoughts streaming through my mind, a few people came up to the rooftop.

—It was my mother, along with Ophis and Lilith. Mum had brought a laundry basket with her, and we shared a moment of eye contact.

"Oh, Ise. Were you resting on the rooftop?"

"Yeah. Sometimes. Even I like some time alone occasionally."

"What are you saying when you're still just a high school student? Really."

While she laughed, mum began to hang the laundry up onto the drying rods which were installed on the rooftop. Ophis and Lilith also helped out.

"Yes, Phis-chan, Lith-chan, and then you do this."

"I, hang up panties."

“Panties, hang dry.”

Ophis and Lilith (standing on stools) hung up the underwear that mum handed to them. Ophis and Lilith’s panties huh…. They looked like rather cutely designed underwear, and it somehow helped to loosen my mood. …Besides, why was I feeling relaxed at seeing Ophis and Lilith’s underwear? Was it because I often looked at rather stimulating lingerie?

—I abruptly noticed a particular pair of panties. It was the first pair that Ophis had bought. They were cute black panties that had no sex appeal at all. …Yeah, it was almost a year since we had bought those panties…. …I suddenly recalled an incident which occurred last year — when we went shopping with Ophis.

Life.1 An Infinite Shopping!

Part 1

It was an event that occurred soon after the riot in the Underworld ended, and the [Ouroboros Dragon] Ophis began living in the Hyoudou household.

“We have to buy Ophis-chan's everyday goods.”

…My mother’s words were very correct. Since it’s one body, Ophis came to live with me—she didn't possess any everyday goods.

And that’s why, starting from clothes, she didn't possess any luxury items.

No, I couldn't think that the strongest dragon-sama would be troubled about clothes, or the likes but, saying that when in Rome, do as the Romans do; since she’s living in the house, I felt it’s better to have the same things that the inhabitants of this house have.

Gathering the members living in the Hyoudou household in the night, we asked Ophis questions.

The contents of the questions were, “Since you’re living here, is there anything you want?” and “How did you live your life till now?”, were some questions which we asked Ophis.

First was the former.

The representative Rias asked.

“Ophis, do you have anything you want right now?”

While staying expressionless, she tilted her head and let out one sentence.

“Great Red’s head.”

That’s extremely dangerous! She replied in an entirely different direction!

Well, having her birthplace, the dimensional gap occupied by Great Red, she couldn't go back but, that’s Ophis’ no.1 worry!

Since she’s living over here, she doesn't need Great Red’s head, right?

“……Since we’re not the Khaos Brigade, please don’t delve your neck into such a dangerous thing?”

While sighing I said that. …I see, she said it to those guys in such a lighthearted manner. With that as an excuse, they got a lot of power from Ophis.

While smiling a little, Akeno-san asked the latter question — “How did you live your life till now?” is what she asked.

“Ophis…chan, is fine right? In what way did you live till now?”

When Akeno-san asked that, Ophis thought just a bit and then wordlessly shook her neck to the left and right. That action was cute. So much so that you couldn't think this was the strongest and invincible dragon.

“I just sat on a seat in a room. I said my wishes. I gave snakes. Just that.”

……Due to that simple answer of Ophis’, the room's atmosphere turned into one where you couldn't say anything. It’s a harsher lifestyle than I imagined.

As if remembering something, she added.

“One more thing. —Vali, became my partner in talking.”

———

…That bastard Vali, it probably weighed on his mind, I guess. He was a helpless battle maniac but I couldn't think of him as one worrying about strange things.

However, with this it didn't become reference about her life. More like, would everything that came to mind be necessary?

For the time being, we just had to go to the department store and buy all the necessary things that we could think of. Thinking about that, Irina said with a difficult expression.

“Um, there’s something that really bothers me. More than that, if we don’t hear about that firstly, the everyday items that we buy will change.”

Is what she said. Something that really bothered her. What exactly was it?

After clearing her throat, Irina who had everyone’s gazes gathered on her asked Ophis.

“Is Ophis-san—a girl, right?”

———

Ah. I see. I get it, that’s what it is, huh. What Irina was bothered about was—this person’s gender.

From appearance it’s a girl. Not to mention, a girl wearing black Gothic Loli clothes. However, from what Azazel-sensei said, a long time back his appearance was that of an old man.

He’s an old man, you know? Due to this cute appearance you couldn’t imagine it to be that but……furthermore, before that the appearance was different as well.

That’s right, this human shaped dragon—could change its appearance at will. Right now it’s a human girl however, for this Dragon God, the concept of a gender was not present was what Sensei told.

Since it doesn't have a gender, Irina was bothered about it.

—Is it fine to treat the current Ophis as a girl?

Depending on that answer, even the everyday items we buy would differ. Since a girl requires more items than boys.

Girls were more sensitive to those sort of things after all. I didn't realise it at all. I thought that if we could just buy the things for everyday life, it’s over.

I see, even a single undergarment would be completely different.

While everyone’s gaze concentrated on Ophis, it only said a single word of noticing.

“I don’t know.”

S-So it’s come to that…w-well, it’s indifferent regarding gender. Somehow it became the appearance of right now.

Now then, is it a male, or a female, which one’s everyday goods should we buy. Is it fine we also buy that in a gender neutral manner?

I had a good question while twisting my neck.

“Then, which underwear are you wearing right now? Isn't it faster to decide what to buy that way?”

Is what Xenovia said.

That’s a splendid judgement method. Something like her…. However, right now from appearance it’s a girl, even if we give him men’s underwear it’s a…on that part even I want to feel romanticism.

No, a girl wearing men’s underwear, that sort of maniacal watching over may actually be present!

Ophis stood at that point,

“I don’t have underwear.”

While saying that Ophis starts to roll up the skirt—!

“Stop, stop!”

Rias immediately restrained Ophis! Good decision! B-But, there’s a bit of feeling of regret…!

“……Are you thinking of some perverted things?”

“Is that so? Eyeing even the Dragon God in a sexual way isn't good, Ise-sama!”

Koneko-chan muttered it staring at me and Ravel gave a warning!

“Sorry! My sorrowful nature unknowingly turned into regret! Girls not wearing pants are attractive!”

I spoke out my mind straight! Sorry for my thoughts being perverted!

“Ise-san! I-I will remove it anytime!”

“Oh, leave it to me, pants right? If it’s for Ise, I will remove them anytime.”

While being embarrassed, Asia tried to remove her pants and Xenovia gets caught up too and without hesitation started to remove her house-wear pajamas.

You peopleeeee! Not good, copying those sort of things!

“Eh!? Going by the flow, do I also have to remove it?”

Looking at her two best friends’ sudden movement, Irina got bewildered! Her wings were already switching between white and black, and was confronting the danger of becoming a fallen angel! It’s the proof that she’s troubled on whether to remove it or not!

What are you doing in my room, you church trioooo!

“I won’t remove.”

That’s right, Rossweisse-san!

Looking at that exchange, Akeno-san gave a little weird smile, and Rias sighed.

Rias said it shrugging her shoulders.

“Since we’re living together, this house’s man, the eldest son Ise recognises Ophis' conduct as a girl, there’s no question of treating her as a girl or not. Then let’s do the shopping as that of a girl as well, huh.”

On Rias’ opinion, everyone agreed. Well, there wasn’t really a reason to worry. The gender was ambiguous however, Ophis’ appearance was that of a bishoujo, no matter who looked at the Ophis right now, they would think of Ophis as a girl I think.

“Next time’s holiday, let’s go to buy the necessary things for Ophis’ living. There’s no need to go in a group, I and Ise will accompany Ophis. It’s fine, right Ise?”

“Understood!”

I immediately replied to Rias’ proposal! There’s no reason to refuse the invitation!

“It’s fine to ask the Gremory household’s servants as well but, since you’re living in this city, it’s better to at least see the human world for yourself. Meaning that shopping would be a good experience. You can follow us on things you don’t know.”

Rias said that.

Yeah, it’s going to be fine if the Dragon God who didn’t know about the world follows us! More like, even though you didn’t know about the world, it didn’t mean you could cause trouble to the people around you.

Like this, me and Rias were supposed to go buy Ophis’ everyday goods.

Part 2

Around noon of the appointed day of shopping—.

The place where me and Rias took Ophis was—a department store that we visited a lot.

The ceiling was an open atrium. The oblong building's inside was fused with department stores and a shopping mall, and as a complex business establishment diverse genres of all types of shops were lined up.

Maybe because of the holiday, the inside of the department store was crowded with people.

Yes, this department store was also the basis of the battlefield with Sitri.

Maybe Ophis was curious, while expressionless she kept turning her gaze here and there in the department store.

We come to this department store while coming from school, and also on holidays with Asia and the others often too. Rias had also come enumerable times for shopping here.

After shopping, we enjoyed waiting at the food court and stuffing our cheeks with takoyaki etc. I think it's fine for devils to wait at the food court after shopping!

The department store also enriched the lives of devils!

"Now, first is furniture. Let's start with choosing a bed."

Rias who stood up first started walking briskly towards the furniture store.

I pulled Ophis' hand, and followed her. If I didn't pull her by the hand, then within the blink of an eye she would get lost.

We roamed around ordinarily in the furniture room looking for a bed and bedding. We had Ophis lie down, and had her confirm the size of the bed and comfort. Well since her thoughts are all “It’s not bad”, it became Rias’ judgement on what to get.

Rias ordered a thing with a pretty expensive tag heartily with her card.

……Well, well, no matter how expensive a princess’ shopping was, every time with the single crimson coloured card it got done. It seemed like a special card with no credit limit…

Just how much was Rias’ bank balance…..? It’s useless to think about calculating a princess’ passbook, huh. It’s definitely an amount of money that’s equal to infinity for me.

I also had one more new passbook after becoming a part of the Gremory family.

As the rule of the Gremory family, if you became a devil then it automatically got made. I didn’t know about this on what the other High-class devil families do but the Gremory family properly does banking and contracts.

After doing the job of the devil, the wage etc. also gets deposited over there.

During the early days the amount of money that a high school student got from part time jobs got deposited but, after a certain day suddenly a different amount of digits got deposited that I doubted my eyes. Because, no matter how you look at it, the number of zeros was strange!

After hearing that it wasn't a mistake or anything from Grayfia-san,

“That is coming from the publishing rights etc. of ‘Oppai Dragon’ to Issei-san.”

Etc. is what I got as a reply!

Yes, the different digit deposit was—in connection with Oppai Dragon! While the Oppai Dragon goods were being made, in my passbook an impossible scale of an amount of money was being transferred!

Due to the number of digits that could make your eyes go dizzy, while confused, my mental state was one big question mark but, in the end, “As you’re an inexperienced devil and it’s still early to give a huge amount of money to a high school student.”, saying that Grayfia-san was in control of my passbook.

…….Even the idiot me understood that that huge amount of money would numb my sensation. Doing supervision of the Gremory household’s schedule as well, I felt like bowing my head every time to Grayfia-san who’s supervising it.

“……The amount of money for today’s shopping is already decided by Onee-sama. If we use too much then it seems we’ll be scolded later.”

Rias murmured that.

Ah, today’s shopping money was already decided in advance as well. Not to mention, for Grayfia-san to decide the amount of money.

Since she’s using it so heartily I thought she was buying things without a money limit however, that part is properly set, huh.

For even buying Ophis’ everyday goods to be controlled, Grayfia-san was really amazing. It’s Grayfia-san the super maid who supervised her sister-in-law’s and sister-in-law’s family’s money!

For us, it’s a person who doesn't stop her mind from working….. Even for Sirzechs-sama it’s the same.

After finishing the purchase of a complete set of furniture safely, the goods would reach our home later on. After leaving the furniture shop, it was the moment when we were trying to set on towards the next shop.

“A limited time sale! You can put as much as you want in your bag! No matter how much you put in, 1 bag is 5000 Yen! 5000 Yen! It’s limited to one bag per person so please be careful! If your bag gets torn out then it will become invalid.”

It was the voice of a shop employee giving a precaution from a loudspeaker. Looking at it, in the clothes store’s time sale corner there was a crowd of people, and with a thirst for blood girls with a sharp glint in their eye were stuffing clothes in their bag.

“Hey! I grabbed that cloth first!”

“No! It was me who grabbed it first!”

That voice filled with fighting spirit came even till here. A terrific tug of war of clothes was being created at every place of the sale corner.

……Scary! If it’s shopping, girls turn into beasts, and demonstrate a blood lust and a strength that they don’t usually show!

“That’s what I grabbed first! I won’t hand it over! Since I lived for this day, I definitely won’t lose!”

……A voice that I recognised reached my ears.

“Ara, It’s Rossweisse. She’s holding a huge pile under her arms.”

It’s that after all! It’s indeed as she said, a silver haired bishoujo was mixed in with old ladies and gathering the clothes for sale!

That expression was a serious and sharp one, the likes of which wasn't seen till now! One that wasn't even seen in the Rating Game, her face is tensed but that person!?

That Rossweisse-san was picking up a jersey with a speed unperceivable by our eyes! Fast! Isn't it even exceeding Kiba's sword speed!?

Rossweisse-san agilely stuffed it in her bag, as soon as she secured it, she let out a cute smile on her entire face.

“…….Today’s the best day!”

Seriously!? Just with a single jersey for sale!?

Just how cheap is this happiness!? No, happiness only has value for some people so, it’s best not to be too foolish but…even then, what’s with this silver haired bishoujo saying “The best day” just by securing a jersey from a time sale!?

Rossweisse-san was really a pitiful bishoujo. Even though she had super pretty looks and her body shape was good too, she doesn't spend too much money on cosmetics etc, her dress at home was also a jersey without flowers. Her everyday goods were mostly 100 yen items and her clothes were also from time sales.

She seemed to be saving the change she saved at home in a savings box bought from a 100 yen store. She said that it was her day’s enjoyment shaking it and checking how much she had saved up.

Can you believe it? That person, she’s spending her life like an economising housewife but our ages weren't really different you know…..?

It’s definitely not a bad thing but even for an instant she’s a bishoujo so she should try to buy things that make herself a bit more conspicuous! Put some money for that!

Wait, since I was a male high school student, I was thinking like that!

“Onee-sama praised Rossweisse as a wonderful woman who can have self control.”

Rias said that.

Grayfia-san said that? ……Now that you mention it, somehow or other, Grayfia-san and Rossweisse-san's personalities may be resembling. Being minute in everything and a cool side, huh.

However, as a definitive difference, Grayfia-san was perfect, and Rossweisse-san was pitiful. Only that was something that no matter what she did, she couldn’t overturn.

Grayfia-san wouldn’t fight with the old hags during a time sale!

However, I think it’s good that Rossweisse-san has her own distinctive personality.

“Since she’s still looking for clothes, and calling out to her isn't good too, let’s go ahead.”

I said that to Rias, and we resumed going to a different shop while taking along Ophis.

For the time being, Rossweisse-san, do your best.

“The ma’am over there! We’re going to cut a hard pumpkin easily now with these special make kitchen knives so please have a look!”

The old ladies were clustered at one corner of the floor. Taking the better of my curiosity, I took a small peek, it seemed like it was a sales stage show.

Wearing aprons, a handsome looking man was waving the kitchen knife in a skilful way and—!

Looking at that apron wearing man I was so surprised that my eyeballs flew out of their sockets!

“Here, those two sisters over there! Woah, it was a mother and daughter huh! Well, that’s young! I completely thought it was an elder sister and a little sister!”

“No way, Azazel-san! You’re always saying that to me!”

It was Azazel-sensei saying sweet words to a middle aged ladyyyy!

In the department store on a holiday, what’s he doing, this person!? In front of me and Rias who were being surprised again and again,

sensei skilfully cut the hard looking melon with the kitchen knife in the middle.

“How is it, ladies! This is it, the trump card, treasured sword, Blazer Shining Aura Darkness Blade—kitchen knife type!”

He’s given it an outrageous name but it’s got quite a sharpness.

However, somewhere from the blade I felt a golden aura…..wait, I have heard of that name somewhere!?

“That knife, is a Sacred Gear which Azazel made after researching and getting results, an artificial Sacred Gear.”

Rias said that!

That’s right! A bit back there was a combined athletic meet of the Three Factions, however during that time, sensei caused a big riot then, isn't it his special make black history weapon!

It looks like something he wrote down in the data when he was in heaven after having wild ideas. According to what he said to Michael-san, “it’s the strongest Sacred Gear I have thought about!”!

That “It’s the strongest Sacred Gear I have thought about!” kitchen type is now being used for a sales show!?

Sensei who was showing the cut melon to the ladies, chopped off a paper or wood made chopping board and finally even sliced off metal easily.

“Please have a look at this sharpness! It cuts even wood or metallic things! Not to mention, even when being handled so crudely, it doesn't have a single chip! The ma’am over there! This kitchen knife is great! It even easily cuts off the evil spirit or your unfaithful husband’s partner! From the solution of household problems to exorcism, you can do everything with this one thing!”

“Ara, no way! You’re joking too much!”

“Shall we buy one!”

Etc. etc, he’s saying good things to the ladies, however it probably may be true! If it’s that knife then it may be able to destroy evil spirits! Because, that floating aura from the knife is the real deal!

What a thing he’s selling, this rascal sensei! More like, since you’re the former Governor General of the Fallen Angels, try to act more dignified! Wait, I am saying that this late!

While being bored, Rias murmured while sighing.

“The funds of Grigori he used without permission, he’s trying to recover them by doing that…..However to sell artificial Sacred Gears to normal humans is going a bit far. Well, since it’s Azazel, he probably made it so that it doesn't affect humans much……however even then I can’t leave it as it is.”

Rias took out her mobile phone, and started conversing with someone.

The call ended, and Rias smiled at me.

“I told the other side to inform Governor General Shemhaza. As expected of the new system Grigori, they responded as soon as you told them. They’ll probably seize urgently.”

What a thing! She made a report to the Grigori! Shemhaza-san became the replacement for sensei who resigned. …Immediately after taking the office, she made this type of report, I conversely felt it was a bit bad. I definitely wouldn’t be able to endure the worries……

“Now then, if you buy these kitchen knives today then as a bonus this comes with it! What a thing! Disaster of Burning over freeze pot! No matter how much you boil, it won’t get burned, the best and hardest hot pot—“

I and Rias left that place, leaving sensei who was swinging his speech. Well, if he looks at us who have brought along Ophis for shopping, he may come to us while saying something. We retreated before being spotted.

After that, we hadn't seen sensei inside the department store, perhaps he was caught by the people of Grigori…..

More like, even saying it is futile however, teachers are forbidden to have side jobs!

After buying all the everyday dry goods at the dry goods store, me, Rias and Ophis, while leaving the store we happened to meet Kiba and Gasper.

"Buchou, Ise-kun. Are you shopping while bringing Ophis along?"

"Yeah, Yuuto, you two are also shopping?"

When Rias asked that, Kiba showed the inside of the bag. —Inside the bag were food products.

"Yes, I thought of having food with Gasper in the afternoon."

Kiba said that with a refreshing smiling face.

What a handsome like holiday! Coming to the department store to buy food, and making dishes at home after lunch! Kiba and Gasper were living together in an apartment nearby the Hyoudou household. It seemed like Kiba was solely in charge of food…this guy's hand made dishes, I have had it once but, it was quite well made. Not to mention, maybe because he had a taste for stylish Italian stuff, even the arrangement of food was splendid!

Isn't a handsome guy able to do cooking the best! The girls who have their stomachs stolen by it, would definitely fall for him!

If the Vice President of the Student Council, Shinra-senpai who is filled with love for Kiba tasted this guy's great cooking, I don't know what would happen to her with the overload of happiness.

"What did you buy, Gasper?"

I pointed to the bag Gasper was clutching and asked that.

"P-Parts of a computer."

Ah, I see. Gasper was skilful at handling computers. Since he's using computers to form contracts with humans and getting rewards. The results of that are above ours. He's the precious money maker of the Gremory family.

Since Kiba was a handsome guy, I feel that spending a holiday on a date with his girlfriend would fit him…..This guy, due to some reason or another doesn't make any girlfriends. The handsome looks are a waste!

It's no use thinking of things like that.

While thinking like that, there was a girl who talked to us.

"Isn't this Rias-san and Hyoudou Issei-kun."

The glasses wearing beauty was—the student councils vice president Shinra-senpai.

To really encounter Shinra-senpai at a place like this! Somehow, aren't there too many acquaintances gathering in the department store today!

"Are you shopping—."

—With that, it seems Kiba came in the eyesight of Shinra-senpai who friendly called out to us. Seems like while noticing me and Rias, she didn't see Kiba, she was shocked as if she was confused. She mustn't have thought that even Kiba would be present.

Shinra-senpai has stiffened her expression and body! Still the state of having called out to us, her mouth was opened wide.

Since Shinra-senpai has fallen for Kiba, even looking from me, each reaction was interesting.

Kiba gave a smile to Shinra-senpai.

“Good afternoon, Shinra-senpai. Are you doing some shopping?”

“Y-Yes, I came to buy a new bookshelf….K-Kiba-kun, you’re also here for shopping?”

“Yes, even though I say that, we have completed our shopping.”

“It’s food ingredients right, a-are you going to do some cooking?”

“Yes, I thought of making some dishes with Gasper-kun this afternoon.”

“….F-For you to even be able to cook…..it’s amazing. You’re the opposite of a Japanese man!”

“? W-Well thank you for that.”

The scene of a disordered speech and conduct of Shinra Tsubaki-senpai and a Kiba troubled on how to respond got developed.

Rias who was looking at it pleasantly cleared her throat and said to Kiba.

“Yuuto, help out with Tsubaki's shopping. If she’s buying a bookshelf, it would be better to have more helping hands, right.”

Is the suggestion that Rias gave. Oh, could this perhaps be?

“H-However, Rias-san! E-Even if you think so much for me…..!”

Shinra-senpai was blushing alongside saying that clumsily. She must have judged Rias’ words’ true meaning, she was really getting flustered. Really cute, this Vice President is! Even though she usually was cool to the level of scariness!

It’s natural since Rias knew Shinra-senpai's true feelings, huh. Since Rias and President were best friends. It seems she sometimes shuts herself in an empty room in the house and talks about this and that with Sona-kaichou.

Kiba nodded to Rias’ suggestion.

“Understood, Buchou. Shinra-senpai, if you’re fine with me, I will help you out in shopping.”

“……..! Unyu[1]….!”

She just said “Unyu”, this vice president!

Even Shinra-senpai seemed to have been knocked out by Kiba's gentlemanly behaviour. In the instant he smiled, he gave out a handsome man sparkling aura that could kill girls, even the male me understood that!

Shinra-senpai had her face red to the level that even steam could come out and it seemed she couldn’t find how to reply.

“Gasper, I leave the two to you.”

“Y-Yes, I don’t really get it but, understood, Buchou!”

Gasper also replied to Rias' words. Since Shinra-senpai won’t be able to bear it with just the two of them, for the embarrassed Shinra-senpai, Gasper's existence would act as a relief medicine.

Kiba escorted Shinra-senpai. The knight-like behaviour of his was still not what you could call close to each other, but—since Shinra-senpai seems to be happy from the bottom of her heart, I guess it’s okay with this for today.

While sending those 3 off in the wave of people, Rias mumbled the following.

“I want to cheer for Tsubaki. I feel she’s quite a good match for Yuuto.”

Kiba and Shinra-senpai, huh. I didn’t know at all what would happen but, I felt like it would be relieving if Kiba had a proper girlfriend.

That guy was always calm with that smiling face however, sometimes looking at him, he gives a dangerously sharp face. The heat of it makes me wonder that he may be the hottest while sleeping within all of us family.

……..Wait, why am I worrying so earnestly about the handsome guy? It’s probably unnecessary concern on my part, haven’t I become dull for me to start worrying about him!

Uh! I will moderately cheer on for Kiba! Rather, let’s cheer for Shinra-senpai more! Somehow, it’s a bit contradictory, but let’s go with that!

And thus, we parted ways with Kiba and company, and continued walking towards the next store.

It was in the middle of that. While we were happening to pass by the musical instrument store, a familiar-looking tall male and—Ravel and Koneko-chan's figure came flying in to my eyes.

It seems they also identified us and came calling to us.

“Rias and…Hyoudou Issei, huh.”

“Riser! You had come to the human world?”

Rias was surprised! Since it was the tall male, Riser Phoenix who was alongside Ravel and Koneko-chan in the musical instrument store!

Uwah, I didn't even think he would come to this department store! More like, I didn't even imagine him coming to the human world! What’s happening with today’s department store!?

While making a bad embarrassed expression, Riser stroked his cheek.

“Ah, a bit of uncouth work.”

“Since he’s worried about me, he came to play alongside.”

Ravel was laughing in a small voice. Besides here, Koneko-chan murmured “I am an escort.”.

Really that Riser, since he was worried about his little sister, he came here, huh. And, since he was in the human world, he decided to visit a department store? He’s unexpectedly acting as an elder brother, that Riser is. That’s why, regarding Riser, even after Ravel found fault in him, she respected him.

Koneko-chan was escorting them, huh. Somehow or another Koneko-chan and Ravel have become close. It seems they became even closer after the event of my life or death situation being unknown that occurred some days back. Both of them supported each other in the feelings of losing me.

Somehow, it’s become an apologetic feeling but, is it all right that the two have become close?

“It doesn't….look like a date, you guys. ……And, who is that little lady over there?”

That Riser's gaze is….was in the direction next to me. The one present there was Ophis whose hand I was holding.

Ah, I see. Riser didn’t know anything about Ophis, and he shouldn’t know about her.

Now then, how should I deceive him. If it’s a devil of Riser’s level then, he can sense the presence or atmosphere or aura and understand that Ophis isn’t a human.

It’s a new family member of Rias! …I can’t introduce like that. All of Rias’ pieces are buried in already!

I was racking my brains on how to deal with it however, at that time Koneko-chan murmured this.

“……It’s Buchou’s and Ise-senpai’s child.”

T-That's overdoing it, Koneko-chan! Even from our point of view, Ophis looks older!

I thought it was a reckless explanation, however…….Riser who heard that……

"……"

Was expressionless, and his entire body was stiff.

Feeling dubious, Ravel peered into his face with an "Onii-sama? Onii-sama, what happened?". As if confirming she waved her hand in front of his but there was no response—.

After a pause, Riser twitched his face, and started wailing!

"…….Shit! Rias' virginity is alreadyyyy!"

He's in a rage! Somehow, flames are rising from his entire body! Since there were a lot of normal people, we couldn't have a super dimensional battle here!

More like, no matter how you think about it, it's got to be a lie! As if children could be born that fast!

"Onii-sama! Koneko-chan was joking! Geez! There's no way that a child can be born between Rias-sama and Ise-sama so quickly! Please hang on! More like, it's embarrassing so don't say such weird things in front of peopleeeeee! From your words, you're becoming the opposite from the engagement partyyy!"

Ravel whose face was red, was trying to control her elder brother who was angry with tears flowing out but Riser was only boiling with fighting spirit towards me.

"Fufufu, hey, Ise! Let's run away!"

Pulling my hand, Rias was looking ready to run away! Me and Ophis as well were lured in and we escaped from that place!

“Bastaaaaaard! Next time, have a duel with me again, Hyoudou Issei! Betting Rias’ boobs on it!”

Riser was roaring that in front of the shop!

“Don’t joke around! Rias’ boobs are mine! However, if it’s a duel, I will do it any time!”

Saying that, me alongside Rias and Ophis ran away!

Life.2 Dragon-God and Panties!

We were having a light meal at the food court. Ophis was having doughnuts full of zest. I understood it after observing however, she eats everything but, within that she loves having sweets.

“I, like doughnuts, cookies.”

The idea of a Dragon God getting fat doesn't seem likely so she must be eating sweet things as much as she likes. More like, do Dragon Gods even have an empty stomach? The riddles never end.

Now then, shopping is nearly done. Left is….only Ophis' underwear! Yes, underwear of girls!

------That’s right, let’s go to buy panties!

We visited the girl’s underwear corner.

……Somehow, it’s an inexpressible feeling. I thought I had no destiny with places like this. Hey, a girl’s underwear corner is like, only the chosen males can step into the place right?

Only a boyfriend accompanying his girlfriend, or a husband accompanying the wife, or a father accompanying can enter.

I am….. a boyfriend accompanying his girlfriend? I want to go like that however, but isn't it more appropriate to call this situation a male accompanying the family for shopping?

It’s fine even with that! I have finally stepped into the forbidden place! It’s fine to call Ophis the entrance exchange ticket for the underwear corner!

……Hey, hey, aren't there large small, various types of bra, panties lined up……! From the orthodox white panties to transparent lacy ones…..!

Above all the atmosphere inside the store is grandeur! The illumination dazzlingly shining on the underwear, all the shelves exhibiting the goods are all designer and have flowers!

Ah! That Brassiere……..huge! What a hugeness! Boobs fitting into that are something else without doubt!

Ooh! This small Brassiere over here has taste, isn't it great!

I see, the choices are narrower in the bigger sizes. Normal size brassieres are rich in variety, and it can be used for more purposes.

It’s the same as a rating game. Having power doesn't mean it’s good. The one with more numbers can adapt to the circumstances. However, I dare to choose a power challenge.

------Power (Big Breasts) are good. Since it’s power (Big Breasts) it’s good.

In my middle school years, I was excited just by looking at a mannequin wearing underwear for show. There’s something irresistible of looking at it close by. This distance, this air, only the chosen ones can get this place…….scenery……..!

For this Shangri-La to be so close to me……..!

That’s right, I am good with this happiness! This happiness suits me!

“……..No way, that person…….who would he be accompanying?”

“I can’t think of him having a girlfriend……it can’t be….. a pervert?”

The female customers were looking at me with suspicious eyes and nodding with an inexpressible feeling. ……It's expected if I am separated from Rias and Ophis. This is a magnificent unexplored region for the perverted me, however if I make one wrong step, then it's a makyo[2] where danger might rain down.

"Ophis which one do you want?"

"I, don't know."

"Then, a coloured one is good. Which one is your favourite colour?"

"…….Black."

"That's right, that colour will suit you. How is this? …….The size may be a bit too big."

"Should I make them bigger? My, breasts are smooth and flat."

"You may be able to change your breasts into whatever you like however, for your height, the size right now is natural."

While holding underwear in their hands, Rias and Ophis, they started looking. The sight of Rias helping out Ophis was for some reason I feel like an elder sister…….like a mother! I guess it's what you called maternal characteristics. I feel like Rias has plenty of maternal characteristics. Yeah, you get yourself wanting to be pampered by her!

While having divine thoughts like that, the conversation of the girls nearby

"Look at it, Asia! At this bold underwear!"

"Hauuu!.....There's a hole on it, Xenovia-san!"

"Yeah, the butt is completely visible. It's already not doing the job of underwear. Don't you think this one is for dates? Hey, Irina."

"D-Don't ask me! I am a Christian! I have decided on pure white underwear!"

“Eh….however, I feel like recently Irina-san bought pink coloured underwear with a bear print on it……”

“Asia-saaaaaan! Why do you know that!? Nooo! You saw me!”

“The Lord won’t be angry with bears, Irina. Even I recently tried a transparent type.”

“Really, Xenovia! It’s surely defiance like a lesser devil!”

“Fufufu, since I am a devil as well. Asia, I am one step forward than you. And also, I will win in this battle of making children with Ise by buying these panties with a hole showing the whole butt.”

“Hauuu! N-No way! If I want to get more and more close with Ise-san, I have to wear t-this underwear…..! No, because I will wear this, I can get closer to Rias-oneesama! I-I’ll buy it as well!”

“Eeeeeeeeee! Xenovia and…..Asia as well will buy those panties!? More like, it’s once again becoming like that! Aaaaaah, Oh Lord, and Michael-sama, what should I do! By buying these panties with a hole showing the whole butt, will my faith increase!”

-----like that, well, in front of the panties with a hole showing the whole butt, Xenovia, Asia and Irina, the church trio were making their resolve and worrying.

……These three also came to the department to shop huh. And not to mention of all things, for it to be the underwear corner……

“…….What are you all doing…..”

When I say that with my eyes half opened while sighing, those three turned back, and had surprised figures.

However, Xenovia immediately changed her feelings, and asks me seriously.

“Perfect timing, Ise. Who’s the one between us 3 on whom this underwear with a hole in it will suit? Your opinion shall become the greatest reply!”

What am I being asked so suddenly!

“……..”

“……..”

Aah, Asia and Irina as well are waiting for my answer with serious expressions!

What’s with you all, geez! Why am I being asked about who the panties with a hole showing the whole butt would suit among the 3 at the underwear corner! Hey hey, the other customers are sending strange glances!

How should I answer? All three’s expressions are serious. No, don’t say that…..

Meh, well. For the time being, let’s let it flow suitably.

“Um, then, how about Irina?”

The moment when I said that. Irina's face becomes pure red, and she twisted her body.

“…..I-if I fall at a place like this it’s going to be troublesome, bear it, Irina……! But, But, Ise-kun said that it would suit me…..! What should I do! Fuhehehe, it feels like I will become a fallen angel!”

While holding her face, it felt like she was frantically fighting something. ……..I-If she opens her wings here, it will probably become very terrible……

“I’ll buy it! I’ll buy this!”

Irina took the underwear in front of her and ran towards the counter!

“Wait, Irina! I will buy it!”

Xenovia and Asia chased after her.

…….Those 3 are always on high tension. It’s a good thing that they’re friends.

In front of those three my mouth slipped but, when I sent my gaze to a different direction, a rare scene came into view.

“Are you going to get that flashy underwear, Akeno?”

“Yeah, Sona. Ise-kun is happy with these types.”

It was the combination of Sona Kaichou----and Akeno-san!

To have come to the underwear corner like the church trio……. Isn't the department full of devils today! Everyone loves this department way too much! Don’t they have any other places to go to on a holiday!?

More like, the combination of these two is too rare! I knew that these two were very good friends in private.

However, to go with just the two of them without Rias is a very rare scene for me! I see, since Rias is accompanying today for buying of Ophis' stuff, Akeno-san and Kaichou must have then decided to go out with just the two of them.

……Somehow, I am really curious about their conversation. What sort of things do they talk about when it’s just the two of them.

I fearfully closed in and turned my ears.

“Won’t you buy this sort of underwear, Sona?”

“Yes, I am fine with the normal ones. I sometimes buy ones with patterns however, I don’t wear transparent, or the very small shaped ones like Akeno or Rias.”

Ooh, as expected of the way too serious Kaichou-sama. Her underwear is also completely serious!

Akeno-san smiles.

“Ara ara, if only there’s a person to show it to, the purchasing desire changes you know?”

“It’s fine if underwear just has it’s functionality. ……Well, if by any chance it’s seen, I feel there’s a need of minimum amount of sense…..”

“Yes, yes, if the boy you like sees it and gets a bad impression, you wouldn't like it right? Girls have to choose underwear with the resolution that it can be seen anytime.”

“……I feel there’s a reason. However-----“

“Ara, this is good.”

The one Akeno-san held was…….the cloth area was excessively small, underwear that had abandoned its functionality as underwear!

Amazing! What’s with that underwear! Won’t the butt etc., everything be completely visible!? More like, it’s a dubious shape that I don’t know if it would even hide the important places or not!

To the side of Akeno-san who was holding it full of curiosity, Sona-kaichou's face was a bit red.

“Ah, Akeno. That underwear….can’t be called as underwear.”

“Ufufu, it’s underwear. It seems boyfriends like these. While Rias is not present, if I have this, he will immediately be roused.”

“……I won’t complain about wearing it in the house but wearing it to school is forbidden, alright? The public morals will be disordered a lot. Before that, are you and Rias wearing flashy underwear from before to school?”

“Geez, Sona. You’re the student council president even in private life. Ufufu, really, your onee-sama is completely opposite. If it was Serafall-sama, she seems to have had an interest in this type of underwear.”

On Akeno-san's words, Kaichou suddenly gets flustered!

“Wa-Wait! Don’t recommend that to Onee-sama! Just show that to Hyoudou Issei-kun!”

“Ufufu, you’re also a very big siscon about Serafall-sama.”

“I am not a Siscon. I am only taking care of Onee-sama. If I don’t do that, Onee-sama seems like she would be tricked by a perverted insect.”

“Sona, really, you’re serious but interesting.”

“…….Kuh”

In contrast to Akeno-san who looked like she was enjoying herself, Kaichou seemed a bit displeased.

Amazing, what an interesting conversation! Heh, those two without Rias do this sort of talk usually. They showed me a valuable scene.

So Sona-Kaichou has a side that cares that much about Leviathan-sama, huh. I surely thought that only Leviathan-sama excessively cares about Sona. The sisters think of each other dearly. This was a rare knowledge.

However, that underwear that Akeno-san is holding could only be thought of as a rope! If she wears that and comes……Gufufu! I can’t bear it! If the panties are like that, what would the bra be like! My dreams are expanding!

------And there was a shadow that was approaching Akeno-san and Sona Kaichou.

A combination Saji, Hanakai-san, and the first year Nimura-san! Kaichou seemed to have recognised them as well.

“Ara, isn't it Saji, Momo and Ruruko. What a coincidence to have met here.”

Hanakai-san says to Kaichou after drawing closer.

“Kaichou! Please hear this! Ruruko is trying to select perverted underwear for Gen-chan! No matter how you think of it, it’s obscene! It’s impure!”

Hearing that, Nimura-san puffs and turns her face away and says.

“I just wanted to hear the opinion of a male. Momo-san as well, if you get your underwear chosen by Genjirou-senpai, isn't fine?”

“W-What are you saying! If I bring Gen-chan with me to the underwear corner, he’ll become an idiot and perverted! What do you plan on doing if he becomes a monster!”

Compared to the upset Hanakai-san, Nimura-san was smiling calmly.

“Male high school students won’t become like that with just a single underwear I think.”

-----Sorry, I was really stimulated!

In someplace else while I was having apologetic feelings, that bastard Saji was bewildered and said to Kaichou.

“I-I, am not really going to ever become perverted, or have tastes in underwear! Kaichou, it’s true! I happened to meet Hanakai-san and Nimura-san coincidentally in the department store, and through this and that came over here! It’s an honour to have met Kaichou!”

He was explaining the reason as to why he was at the underwear corner.

Since it’s Saji who’s fallen for Kaichou. He must want to avoid a misunderstanding. More like, Hanakai-san and Nimura-san's Saji contest is overheating……

After raising her spectacles, Kaichou said this simply.

“Saji, males can’t be coming recklessly to the girl’s underwear corner. And also------ you have to moderate your perversity.”

“Ka-Kaichou…..you’re wrong……”

With the misunderstanding seeming to have cleared but not having been cleared, Saji was in shock after hearing that from Kaichou. Seeing that Akeno smiled and loosened her mouth.

…….Saji Genshirou who still wasn't a likely candidate. It’s far off. Like, doesn't it smell like impossible? If he finds out that I am called by my given name by Kaichou, I feel that I will be cursed by Vritra's power……

Hearing the conversation of the student council members any more than this is also useless so, I sneakily moved away from that place.

Now then, after returning worried on how Rias and Ophis' shopping was going-----

Rias was in the corridor and looking around turning her head this way and that in the shop. From the troubled expression on her face, it seemed like something had happened.

More like, Ophis……isn't around?

Rushing over to Rias, she said that with an open mouth first.

“Ophis went somewhere!”

……It seems like the dragon God became a lost kid.

It was a 10 second gap in which Rias was having the shop employee check the stockpile. In that little gap where she had her eyes away, for Ophis to have disappeared.

“What have I done….”

Rias who looks apologetic.

No, it’s my fault. Because I only had my attention on Asia and the two, or Akeno-san and Kaichou….. Because I had entered the underwear corner of my dreams, I was too happy.

…..If I had clutched her always, she wouldn't have gone.

We called out to the church trio, Akeno-san and Sona-kaichou, and Saji and the rest and asked them to help us find Ophis.

Making the place in front of the underwear corner as the gathering spot, everyone ran around in the department.

Was she taken away by someone? It’s not that there’s no possibility but if you ask me, something must have caught her attention and she followed that. Or she must have been curious about the department store and aimlessly got separated from us------. The possibility of one of those two is high.

“…..W-Well, since it’s a Dragon God, it’s not like she’ll get some trouble but someone may get in trouble because of her….”

I twist my neck in negation. We have already told her strongly not to use her powers on normal people, I don’t think she would. Her personality is docile, so if you say it once she’ll understand.

……Being taken captive by other factions, and also enemy powers, the possibility….can’t be said as zero.

For the three great powers, this city is a special place so I don’t think enemy powers can enter so easily but, I can’t say it for sure……

Not good. The more you think about it, you’ll sink into despair!

For the time being, places where it seems she would go, or places which would catch her attention, we have to put them together and check them!

“It’s a large shop so it’s not certain that Ophis will stay in one place, and there’s a limit to how much we can search on via. Let’s have our familiars help as well.”

Rias making sure the guests didn't notice, started having her familiars search thoroughly as well. At that moment------. The indoor broadcast started ringing throughout the entire department store.

“Lost Child Notice.”

Ooh! Maybe it’s! Praying that it’s maybe that, what reached our ears was-----

“Crimson haired, big boobed mom. A father with a lecherous face. A sister with normal sized boobs with long gold hair. An idiotic looking sister who looks like she has brute strength. A sister who is a self proclaimed angel. Brother and sister looking like birds and a girl looking like a cat. One more mom with black hair and big boobs. A sister looking like she has low happiness and is poor who is silver haired. And also a handsome guy and a cross dressing boy and a glasses girl…..? Is there a combination of such people? Or are there such looking people nearby? A girl is waiting at the lost child centre. …….Wait, head! S-Sorry! B-But, this girl said that if I said that they would immediately understa…..ah, my deepest apologies! Please forget this!”

…….Somehow, a really rude and awful announcement was heard!

Leaving that aside, Crimson haired and a big boobed mom!? And, a father with a lecherous face!?

Who is that! Wait, us!? The customers inside the shop look at us and say “Aren't they them?” “You’re right.” And started noticing!

More like, that Ophis, isn't it definite that she’s at the lost child centre!

Did she explain as mother, father!? Or is that while explaining, the employee took it as that!?

“L-Leaving this aside, let’s hurry to Ophis!”

We get caught in public gaze, and with her face reddening due to embarrassment, Rias said that and started walking fast! We also follow her!

In the middle of heading there, we get inquisitive glances and words of other customers, and keep heading on!

“Well, a couple around high school student? Crimson hair! It’s about them!”

“It’s indeed an idiotic looking lady who looks like she has brute strength!”

“A self proclaimed angel (lol)”

“A mom with black hair and big boobs……wait, there are two moms? And there are lots of sisters? I-It’s a complex circumstance.”

“It really is a lecherous looking faced dad!”

Everyone is saying what they want!

We increased our pace for the time being with our faces red!

Shit! Shiiiiiit! Why do we have to face this! It’s extremely embarrassing!

“I! For the time being, can’t come to this department store due to embarrassment!”

Covering her face while walking, Asia looked embarrassed from the bottom of her heart!

“Sorry for looking idiotic.”

“I am an angel! It’s true!”

Xenovia and Irina also looked like they couldn't agree.

The Riser brother sister and Koneko-chan who are not moving alongside us right now, would they also be recognised right now and be embarrassed?

Kiba and Gasper, Shinra-senpai, and Rosweisse-san as well may have noticed the announcement!

“Fufufu, Sorry. But, fufufu.”

Sona-Kaichou who wasn't called by the announcement is tagging along with us laughing strangely.

Eh, please laugh already! Although I want to cry!

“Ufufu, my position as the other mom. It’s not bad. Next time, adultery play with Ophis-chan and Ise-kun may be interesting.”

Akeno-san looked like she liked the explanation in the announcement! Adultery play including Ophis is strongly catching my interest!

More like, that Ophis, she explained our appearance directly to the employer. Or, must have said the special features we told our friends like that itself.

And then, the above mentioned mom, Rias is-----

While blushing her face red, somehow was happy.

“……Mom. I am a mom. Ufufu. Ise is the dad. I see. That’s right. That’s how we are seen, right. Really, Ophis.”

It seemed like she had the best mood today. After having that embarrassing announcement done, furthermore all inquisitive gazes all having been concentrated, Rias gave the finest quality smile.

“You’re late. I got tired of waiting.”

Saying that Ophis welcomed us!

She didn't show us a single particle of calmness. Seems like she was taken along with a kid eating candy, and was unsteadily separated from the underwear corner.

Rias was not even particularly angry with Ophis, rather, she was off buying candy for her.

“How is it, Ophis. Is the candy tasty?”

“It’s fluffy and sweet. Tasty.”

“Ufufu, I see. However, don’t separate on your own from us, okay?”

“Got it.”

Her figure of watching over Ophis seemed to be enjoying herself.

“That’s right, the mom has to be gentle with her children. Ophis, do you want more of the candy.”

“I want more.”

Rias was in a good mood from the beginning to the end. It seems she was very happy being recognised as ‘mom’. If you look at it from appearances, it’s a big daughter for Rias.

……I am the dad, huh. R-Rias’ husband….? T-That’s an honour!

Children, huh. Will I too, someday, become a true father. I can’t even imagine it now.

After that, everyone restarted their shopping. In the middle, we met with Koneko-chan, Ravel, Riser, Rosweisse-san and had a late lunch. Since there were a lot of adults, we split the seats and sat.

It seemed that Kiba, Gasper and Shinra-senpai had gone back already. They progressed at their own pace so it’s interesting. Guessing from Kiba's appearance and Shinra-senpai, it’s impossible to happen suddenly.

Riser is nudging at his hamburger with a happy look. That caught my interest.

“Riser-san likes hamburgers, huh! I can’t imagine it!”

As soon as I say that, Riser's face reddens!

“What did you say, Sekiryuutei! Hamburgers are tasty! You too, putting miso soup on hamburgers!? That’s why former humans are an uncivilized combination and I am troubled eating with such a group!”

“What did you say!? Doesn't miso soup match with hamburger!”

Don’t underestimate the Japanese! As long as there’s rice and miso soup, they can make mostly everything as a side dish! A fried chicken can’t understand that!

“Geez, Ise-sama and Onii-sama too, please don’t fight over hamburgers!”

Ravel entered between me and Riser and tries to stop us!

“I, like hamburgers.”

“……Tawara hamburgers are supreme.” [3]

On the side of us, Ophis and Koneko-chan were eating silently while taking the dishes. In the other seats, the Sitri family was eating enjoyably but only Saji's tension was low from the beginning to the end.

Isn't it fine to have the person you like recognise you as perverted! I too am living sturdily like that!

However, somehow having a meal like this so peacefully and enjoyably may have been quite a while ago.

Well, in the meantime, we couldn't bear the inquisitive gazes pouring at us from the other customers! Since we’re well known thanks to the announcement from before……

However, even though I say it as a coincidence, it was a department store with acquaintances in the numbers that you would be surprised at……. The proportion of devils is way too high, in this department…..

Was this also the Dragon God-sama's divine protection? No, it can’t be.

“Let’s go to the 100 yen store in the last! Since good things happened today, I want to exert and spend around 500 Yen worth of articles!”

Rosweisse-san was proudly showing the war spoils with her eyes shining. In the words of Ophis, a sister looking like she has low happiness and is poor. ……It’s matching her.

……Today, I think the one who most proficiently bought was Rossweisse-san.

New Life.

After the announcement in the department store, it somehow spread even in the school, and within a bit of time, we became the topic of conversation as “The high school couple and their family which cause trouble at the department store.”

Of course, it was a misunderstanding but…… The announcement in the shops was that interesting, huh! Since I was embarrassed it’s not possible!

“Ise! What’s the meaning that you having a child with Rias-senpai!?”

“You, made children!? A marriage during high school!? We can’t forgive you!”

Matsuda, Motohama, only the stupid two followed me persistently!

However, the person in question, Ophis seemed to have enjoyed shopping, and wore her panties safely as well.

And also, Rias also seemed very happy. A lot happened and we were embarrassed but, I was able to see everyone’s side that I wasn't able to see normally, and the shopping was a grand success!

I somehow escaped from Matsuda and Motohama. Before I realised it, I was besides the old school building.

Casually looking up, Ophis was gazing at the outside scenery from the second floor.

So she came to school, huh. She comes to school using the magic circle occasionally, huh….. Well, she hasn't exited the old school building till now.

“Ise, it’s a clear day.”

Gazing at the blue sky with not even a single cloud, the Dragon God said that.

“……..I, after coming here have often started to see the human world’s sky. Maybe.”

…..This girl’s home, the dimensional gap was a place with space like a kaleidoscope.”

“Hey, Ophis. How is the sky here compared to the place you were born?”

The Dragon God who is called infinite smiles at my question.

“It’s not bad.”

I see. It’s not bad, huh. Then, it’s fine, surely. You can stay over here.

Since there’s no guy who can bully you here. Nobody even wants snakes, you know?

“Let’s go to the department store again.”

“I look forward to that.”

Aah, really, if I stay with Ophis it’s going to be tough but-----that part looks enjoyable.

↑ SFX often used to replace 「何？」, “what”. Emphasis on cuteness

↑ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Makyo

↑ I don’t know what Tawara is, it literally means bales, but I guess it’s a particular type of hamburger, never had too many hamburgers myself in Japan anyway.

Infinity Underwear.2

—Something like that happened huh.

It was surprising that it had already been a year since that shopping trip. Gazing at mum and the Dragon God sisters hanging up the laundry while I reminisced about the past, I then noticed Kunou come up to the rooftop. Kunou had also brought a laundry basket with her.

“I’ve also come to hang things up to dry, Phis-dono, Lith-dono!”

Saying that, she used a stepping stool to hang her own laundry up onto the clothesline.

“Laundry, hang up.”

“Hang up.”

“Hang dry.”

The sight of Ophis, Lilith and Kunou hanging up the laundry while they chatted amongst themselves was soothing. It was only at times like these that I strongly felt peace. Just as I smiled and gazed at the three girls, a laundry basket was suddenly placed in front of me. Mum stood in front of me and said,

“Your clothes are in here as well, so help me out with them.”

“Sure thing.”

I stood up, took the laundry basket with my clothes in it and walked over to the clothesline. And this was an event which took place during a peaceful moment—.

Afterword

Hello everyone, this is Ichiei Ishibumi. It's been a while since the last short story compilation. Because the previous volume [DX.4] was filled entirely with two matches from the [Azazel Cup], it's been a full year and a half since [DX.3], which was a true short story volume.

In the afterword of the second volume of [True High School DxD], I announced that 'the next volume will be True DxD volume three', but I'll explain why that turned into the short story compilation [DX.5] in the latter half of this afterword.

Anyway, I'll first begin with commentary of each episode. The magazine publications and the new complementary episodes have been anomalously chronicled in a roughly alternating fashion.

[Resurrected? The Immortal Bird] — between volume seventeen and nineteen of the original series

One of Riser's [Bishop] positions were vacant due to the transfer of Ravel, so I decided to write about it. Even so, it's rather chaotic…. A kappa appeared, a snow gorilla appeared, a Nagoya Chicken appeared and Bapple-kun came out as well…. It feels like there's a lot of momentum when I read through it, and I think it's somewhat nostalgic as well.

[Unknown Dictator] — during the preliminary stage of the [Azazel Cup]

This episode is related to the Phoenix team. It's a short story that delves deeper into the premise of the new Longinus [Unknown Dictator] that's been rumoured to be able to manipulate machines in the main series recently. I think it's the first American agent that I've introduced. I've occasionally thought that it would be nice to introduce a CIA agent or the like. Magnus' image is based on the flying superheroes from Marvel comics. He has joined the [Phoenix]

team, but he seems to have good compatibility with Seekvaira. Magnus Rose will soon make his appearance in the main series.

[Maid of the House of Pendragon] — between volume seventeen and nineteen of the original series

This is a story that I wrote to dig deeper into the background of Arthur and Le Fay. Elaine-san wasn't really mentioned in the main series, so I almost forgot what kind of person she was until I reread this episode. I'd like to make the most of her hereafter.

[Collbrand] — after the preliminary stage of the [Azazel Cup]

This is a new short story I wrote after rereading [Maid of the House of Pendragon]. It's a story about Arthur and Elaine, as well as the new Longinus [Alphecca Tyrant]. Since the possessor of [Unknown Dictator] is a CIA agent, I decided that the possessor of [Alphecca Tyrant] should be related to British royalty. In any case, I plan to elaborate on this in Le Fay's volume. This story is more of a prelude. I haven't written about it yet, but I think Arthur will do his best.

[Sleepover Party for the Gifted and Talented] — between volume seventeen and nineteen of the original series

This is a story that I thought up for exploring Tosca's background. As she's a girl who doesn't appear much in the main story, I'd be delighted if you read this episode and thought about her. However, Kiryuu is…bad at teaching! Though, beginning with Asia, she's become an expert at becoming friends with those related to the Church, and she's certainly been successful again. As the author, I also really like the last interaction between Rias and Tosca.

[Go West!] — between volume seventeen and nineteen of the original series

I wrote this because I wanted to write a story about Vali. When it comes to Vali, it's easy to talk about those associated with Journey to

the West, so I introduced the current Zhu Bajie and current Sha Wujing. This episode is the first appearance of those two. As for Sha Wujing, there are indeed occasions when they are referred to as a kappa in Japan, and of course, Salamander Tomita also made an appearance. In fact, when you read through [DX.5], Kuroka seems to appear quite often.

[Salamander Tomita] — after the preliminary stage of the [Azazel Cup]

After deciding on the composition of [DX.5] (which episodes to include) and re-reading it all, Salamander Tomita seems to stand out! I mean, his name often comes up in short stories, and he fought with Kuroka when he first appeared as well…a monster of the Grigori…. Even though I created him, I don't really understand this kappa, but I feel like he has a strange charm, so I decided to make him a reserve member of the Vali team. And with that, I can reproduce the members of both the original version and the Japanese version of Journey to the West. I've noticed that the tone and expressions of this kappa seem to differ depending on the story, but I didn't fix it because I feel like it would be more interesting that way. By the way, he's something of a kappa genius amongst the Youkai, so he gets stronger every time he appears. That's what I've decided. To be honest, I don't even know what an Ultimate-class Kappa is myself….

[Flower Arrangement of the Princesses] — sometime around volume twenty-two of the original series (after proposal to Rias)

Personally, I really like the short stories in DxD. In any case, this is a story that I wrote because I wanted to make everything about some rather gibberish elements funny and comedic. After all, Seekvaira is a character quite suited to short stories. It's just that, to my surprise, Kiba became a girl quite naturally…. Since Kiba occasionally turns into a girl, there are times when the author himself is unsure of whether the character is male or female.

[Kimono Girl?] — during the preliminary stage of the [Azazel Cup]

This is a new short story that I wanted to write about Tosca. I can't imagine putting Ise in a feminine body, so I don't think I'll ever do it.

[White Dragon Emperor of Black History] — after volume twenty-four of the original series

[The Fallen Dog God -SLASHDØG-] which has a shared world has already started publication in earnest, and this is a story about the Slash Dog team and Ice Princess Lavinia which I thought about including in the main story. When it comes to Lavinia, Vali obviously has to be involved as well. It's a complementary episode to the black history diary which was introduced in volume twenty-four. Nanadaru Shigune didn't appear in the magazine edition, but was added to the story upon inclusion in this volume. The independent avatar of Four Fiends [Toutetsu] having three bodies is probably the most surprising scene for readers of [The Fallen Dog God -SLASHDØG-]. I think this will be continued in [The Fallen Dog God -SLASHDØG-] and mentioned also in True DxD. There are still other members of the Slash Dog team (including its collaborators), so I think I'll try to introduce them in the DxD timeline as well.

[Restaurant] — during the main stage of the [Azazel Cup]

In this newly written short story, we're at the forefront of the main timeline. Ingvild, who has just become a member of Ise's peerage also makes an appearance. I talked about the restaurant where Tobio Ikuse is a chef in [White Dragon Emperor of Black History], so this short story is complementary to it. I also wrote about the daily life of Vali and Cao Cao which you don't normally get to see. Sharing a table with Vali, Doumon Genbu is borrowed from [The Fallen Dog God -SLASHDØG-]. For those interested in her relationship with Vali, please check out [The Fallen Dog God -SLASHDØG-].

[Superhero Trial] — between volume twenty-four and twenty-five of the original series

In this episode, I thought I'd talk about the new Hero Faction. I once went to Shibamata (and Shibamata Taishakuten Temple) for research and inspiration, and that's when I came up with this idea. For the playful holy spear wielder and cleaner Cao Cao, the new members are Momotaro and Zhuge Liang. With this, it's become a fun team again.

[Infinity Underwear.1] — during the main stage of the [Azazel Cup]

This takes place at the forefront of the current timeline. This is a short story that I inserted after discussing with my editor that first-time readers of the [First Errand] story following it would find it easier to understand with this. Even so, the timeline can be confusing. Sometimes, even the perverted Ise wants to sip cola on the rooftop alone.

[First Errand] — just after volume twelve of the original series

This is a story that became an addendum of a volume, making it volume 12.5 in the form of Dragon Magazine. This is an episode about Ophis' issues with daily life around everyone following her arrival at the Hyoudou Residence. This was around the time when Asia had normal-sized breasts. They continued to grow after this. This story was written in 2012, roughly seven years ago, so it is the oldest one included in [DX.5]. Because of that, the writing style and Ise's feelings are slightly different from what they are now. As the author, it feels somewhat refreshing, but at the same time, it certainly makes me feel as though I've gotten older. Ise was young back then, as was my writing…when I think about it like that, I feel like I've aged a bit. From my early thirties to late thirties, my thought process and perspective has certainly changed somewhat. In terms of age, I feel like I'd be close to Azazel and Ajuka.

[Infinity Underwear.2] — during the main stage of the [Azazel Cup]

This is the continuation of [Infinity Underwear.1]. I thought it'd be a good idea to write a few pages about peaceful everyday life as well.

—And, that concludes the commentary of each episode.

Now, as I mentioned at the beginning of this Afterword, I'll explain 'why True DxD volume three turned into [DX.5]'…. I am currently receiving treatment for high blood pressure. Last year, my physical condition crumbled because of overwork. In fact, while I was writing the previous volume of True DxD volume two (around autumn last year), I became sick, had frequent headaches, had lots of palpitations, and felt tired but was unable to sleep — it was a rather painful situation. Afterwards, my physical condition deteriorated while on a business trip and I went straight to hospital. As a result of my examination, although not a serious illness, I was diagnosed with high blood pressure. At one point, my blood pressure went up to nearly two hundred. The headaches, palpitations, insomnia and the like that I experienced during work seemed to have been caused by high blood pressure from overwork. In addition, I also discovered pain in my neck, shoulders, and arms. This was due to a problem with my neck bones. It was because I had been looking at my computer with the same posture for a long period of time. I am currently resting while I treat my blood pressure and neck problems with medicine. Regarding my blood pressure, it's actually fortunate that I was able to start treatment of it early. If it had been a little later, it's possible that I'd have caused serious symptoms in my brain and heart due to overwork.

In 2018, I was writing DxD and SLASHDØG, writing the special story [High School DxD Zero] for the fourth anime season [High School DxD HERO]'s broadcast, Blu-ray and DVD releases, working on the tenth anniversary book, doing various research, checks, and talk events — this made it the greatest workload that I had ever had and my body

just couldn’t handle it. As a result, I rested and received treatment from the end of 2018 to the beginning of 2019. I was only able to write short-story length compositions because I had lost my physical strength (I wasn’t in the best condition to write action scenes in particular). That’s why the main story volume turned into a short story compilation this time. Having said that, I think I’ll be in a fairly good state by the time this is released. I will definitely continue writing True High School DxD volume three and [The Fallen Dog God -SLASHDØG-] volume four, so I highly appreciate your patience in waiting for them.

Now that we’ve talked about my physical condition, here are my acknowledgements. Miyama Zero-sama, Editor T-sama, once again I’m indebted to you and I apologise for the inconvenience.

Next time, I’d like to present True High School DxD volume three. In order to do so, I am improving my physical condition and gradually restoring my writing ability. As announced previously, True DxD volume three is the new Kyoto arc and will feature Kunou (and Yasaka). Please look forward to it.

Credits

Translation Team Members:

King: Sekiryuu

Queen: Zxzxzx

Rook: Reon & Vergil_Lucifer666

Bishop: Himandroid & DragonOsman

Knight: Darksider & Riku

Pawn: Borobon, CCPDarkraiRules, Raptor980, GrimBrutalist, foggy_glasses, Kunou (Mutation Piece)

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